LOCAL COURTS ADAPT TO 2020

Local, A3

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Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Alex Little, left, and Maurice "Moe" Patrick look over pictures taken of Willow Creek, which winds through the two homeowner's properties in Benton Township. Recent creek flooding has caused concerns about the continuing damage to property.

The Willow Creek problem

Stormwater runoff creating a headache in Benton Township

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — The creek running through Alex Little's backyard is one of the reasons he bought his Benton Township house in 1984.

"This used to be a thing of beauty. The trees were alive and doing well. The creek was only about 2-foot deep at the most, 8 to 9 feet wide. Maybe 10 in some places," he said.

But since he bought his house, a nearby section of farmland in the township has become home to big box stores and other retail ventures. As pavement took over the area, Little said pollution in the waterway, called Willow Creek, has greatly increased, along with the amount of water that pours down it when it rains.

Little said the creek is now 26-feet wide and 4-feet deep, and many of the trees in his backyard have died due to flooding.

Berrien County Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin said the problem Little is having is a sign of a much bigger problem in that area – one his office is working to fix.

Quattrin said he hired a company to send a camera through the entire system to figure out where the problems are.

The stormwater system that feeds into Willow Creek runs from the Fairplain Plaza area and meanders around until it flows through Little's backyard, and eventually into the St. Joseph River near Pier 1000 in Benton Harbor.

Quattrin said that when many of the stores were built, there was no requirement that they retain some water onsite after it rains, to keep the stormwater system from overloading.

"It's a system with an old design," he said. "It's a sea of parking lots where it's a pipeline that shoots the stormwater into Willow Creek and down to the (St. Joseph) River. That's not a good system, and we've learned that."

Willow Creek winds through property owned by neighbors Alex Little and Maurice "Moe" Patrick in Benton Township. Erosion over the years has exposed Little's sewer line, seen near the bottom of this photo.

Alex Little and Maurice "Moe" Patrick look over pictures taken in recent years of flooded Willow Creek.

One solution is for businesses to build rain gardens to retain some of the water on their property. Quattrin said rain gardens help filter out the pollutants and allow the water to flow into the storm system much more slowly.

But Quattrin said it is hard to get businesses to put in rain gardens and other systems to slow the water running off of their property.

"I have to convince these people to spend money," he said. "But it's beneficial. It cleans the waterways. It's so important to our community. Water is the essence of life."

Quattrin said that if there is an oil spill in the mall area, it can hit the beaches along Lake Michigan in two to four hours. More rain gardens, however, would help to clean up Willow Creek and ultimately, Lake Michigan.

"We need to make sure we catch these issues at the site because it's much easier to deal with. It's much easier to contain it and clean it," he said.

Japanese knotweed

Stormwater isn't the only problem facing Willow Creek.

About three or four years ago workers made the creek deeper to help control flooding. But during that work, they discovered an infestation of Japanese knotweed.

"I can't do anymore work until we kill the knotweed," he said, adding that could take several more years.

Little said deepening the creek in his backyard has caused another problem. While the flooding has stopped, no rip rap was put along the banks, so now the creek's walls are eroding.

"The walls aren't protected since they dug it out. The water comes through and it just slices out layers and layers of land," he said.

Little's neighbor, Maurice "Moe" Patrick, calls this unfair. Patrick said when he bought his house 20 years ago, there was no flooding problem, but then the growing business district created the problem.

"We pay taxes on this," he said. "This (problem) is man-made. We didn't create this problem. They created this problem."

Sewer line issues

The increasing depth of the creek caused another problem.

Sewer lines from both of their houses to a line behind their houses are now exposed. Little said township staff told him they are the only two properties that don't connect to the sewer line in front of their houses on that street.

But switching to the sewer line in front of his house

See **CREEK**, page A6

Trump pardons former Congressman Mark Siljander

Upton reacts: 'I am beyond disappointed ... just stunned'

By DALE BREWER
HP Local News Editor

The storm of controversy surrounding President Donald Trump's recent pardon spree hasn't spared Southwest Michigan.

On Wednesday, Trump pardoned Mark Siljander, the former Republican congressman who represented Southwest Michigan from 1981 to 1987.

Siljander, 69, pleaded guilty in 2010 to obstruction of justice, as well as to acting as an unregistered foreign agent in federal court in Missouri, home to the Islamic American Relief Agency, a charity that federal investigators linked to terrorist groups.

As part of the plea deal, charges related to money laundering were dropped. Siljander was sentenced in 2012 to one year in prison and six months of supervised release.

The pardon came in the second round of Trump's pardon spree. On Wednesday, Trump granted pardons to 26 people, including several associates recently convicted of crimes related to the 2016 Russia election interference investigation.

The pardon of Siljander raised the ire of U.S. Rep. Fred Upton – the man who defeated Siljander in a bitterly fought Republican primary in 1986.

Said Upton, on Twitter: "I am beyond disappointed the President used his pardon authority on Mark Siljander, who accepted a plea bargain and lesser charges and still served a year in federal prison after having been indicted with a series of federal crimes including obstruction of justice, money laundering, and lobbying for an international terrorist group with ties to Osama bin Laden, Al Qaeda, and the Taliban. Just stunned. I wish the President would instead focus his energy on helping the millions of families and small businesses ravaged by the pandemic."

Siljander lived in St. Joseph County when he was elected to Congress in 1980, in what was then the 4th District. A staunch social conservative, Siljander during the 1986 primary sent a tape to area fundamentalist ministers asking that they support him and "break the back of Satan." Siljander later admitted that the tape, which Upton seized upon, could have cost him the election.

After losing his congressional seat, Siljander later moved to Virginia to work as a lobbyist.

According to the Detroit News, White House officials noted in a news release that Siljander was one of Congress's "most stalwart defenders of pro-life principles and the namesake of the 'Siljander Amendment,' which prohibits U.S. funds from being used to lobby for or against abortion."

The White House further noted, as reported by the News: "Mr. Siljander served a year in prison for obstruction of justice and failing to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act," the release said. "Since his incarceration, Mr. Siljander has devoted himself to traveling in the Middle East and Africa to promote peace and mutual understanding."

The pardon, coming well after Siljander served his sentence, has the effect of wiping the legal slate clean.

A pandemic Christmas: Services move online, people stay home

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

ROME — Families that usually reunite on Christmas over a hearty, lingering meal stayed home Friday, services were held online, and gift exchanges were low-key in one of the most unusual holiday seasons in decades.

The coronavirus left almost no one unaffected.

Patricia Hager, 60, delivered homemade caramel rolls for breakfast to family and friends in Bismarck, North Dakota, a state that didn't get hit until later in the pandemic but got hit hard. It seemed every time she opened her door this holiday season, someone had left smoked salmon, baskets of nuts or cookies.

"This year Christmas love is expressed at the door," she said. "I'm glad that people will probably be with us next year with the vaccines. I can give up anything for that."

With a child due in February, Song Ju-hyeon of Paju, South Korea, near Seoul, said home is the only place she feels safe. The government reported 1,241 new cases Friday, a new daily record for the country.

"It doesn't feel like Christmas anyway, there's no carols being played on the streets," she said.

"It's Christmask," the Daily Nation newspaper declared in Kenya, where a surge in cases led to doctors ending a brief strike Christmas Eve. Celebrations were muted in the East Africa hub as a curfew prevented overnight church vigils.

Pope Francis delivered his Christmas blessing from inside the Vatican, breaking with his traditional speech from the balcony of

See **CHRISTMAS**, page A6

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Sunday Weather
High 41
Low 28

6 50645 49086 7

Mark Humphrey / AP

Emergency personnel work near the scene of an explosion in downtown Nashville, Tenn., on Friday. Buildings shook in the immediate area and beyond after a loud boom was heard early Christmas morning.

Downtown Nashville explosion knocks communications offline

By KIMBERLEE KRUESI, MICHAEL BALSAMO and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A recreational vehicle parked in the deserted streets of downtown Nashville exploded early Christmas morning, causing widespread communications outages that took down police emergency systems and grounded holiday travel at the city's airport.

Police were responding to a report of shots fired Friday when they encountered the RV blaring a recorded warning that a bomb would detonate in 15 minutes, Metro Nashville Police Chief John Drake said. Police evacuated nearby buildings and called in the bomb squad. The RV exploded shortly afterward, Drake said.

"This morning's attack on our community was intended to create chaos and fear in this season of peace and hope. But Nashvillians have proven time and time again that the spirit of our city cannot be broken," Mayor John Cooper said at a news conference after issuing a curfew for the area.

Police believe the blast was intentional but don't yet know a motive or target, and Drake noted that officials had not received any threats before the explosion.

The chief said investigators at the scene "have found tissue that we believe could be remains, but we'll have that examined and let you know at that time." Police could not say whether it potentially came from someone inside the RV.

Three people taken to area hospitals for treatment were in stable condition Friday evening, Cooper said.

Surveillance video published on a Twitter account Friday that appeared to be across the street from the blast captured the warning issuing from the RV, "... if you can hear this message, evacuate now," seconds before the explosion.

LOTTERIES

Friday drawings

Michigan
Midday Daily 3
6-3-0
Midday Daily 4
6-6-0-1
Daily 3
8-3-0
Daily 4
9-0-9-6
Fantasy 5
09-12-21-24-32
Keno
03-05-13-14-20-22-24-29-30-33-37-44-50-54-58-61-62-65-67-76-78-80
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $352 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: $341 million

Thursday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
14-17-22-32-36
Cash4Life
14-22-32-34-52, Cash Ball: 2
Quick Draw Midday
04-09-14-16-20-22-23-28-30-33-34-41-47-52-55-60-64-70-74-79, BE: 14
Daily Three-Midday
4-9-6, SB: 0
Daily Three-Evening
8-8-6, SB: 2
Daily Four-Midday
9-8-0-1, SB: 0
Daily Four-Evening
4-6-4-3, SB: 2
Quick Draw Evening
01-06-10-12-15-18-20-22-25-26-27-32-43-51-52-57-61-63-73-76, BE: 20

Illinois
Lotto
17-19-24-29-37-50, Extra Shot: 11
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
21-24-32-42-43
Pick Three-Midday
7-4-0, Fireball: 8
Pick Three-Evening
1-5-4, Fireball: 3
Pick Four-Midday
1-9-7-8, Fireball: 1
Pick Four-Evening
3-3-5-5, Fireball: 6
Lucky Day Lotto
05-18-21-22-30

– The Associated Press

BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT

Sentences

St. Joseph

Assault

Arthur L. Murphy, 53, of River Terrace, Benton Harbor, 45 days in jail, $995 in fines and costs and 1 year probation for domestic violence second offense, an assault on a woman, Jan. 4 in Benton Harbor.

Chennell L. Williams, 36, of Harbor Bluff Court, Benton Harbor, 180 days in jail, credit for 3 days served, $2,238 in fines and costs, $2,899 in restitution and 18 months probation for assault with a dangerous weapon, an assault on a woman with a vehicle, Oct. 18, 2019, in Benton Harbor; and a concurrent term of 180 days and $198 in costs for assault with a dangerous weapon, an assault on a man with a beer bottle, Sept. 19, 2019, in Benton Harbor.

Larceny

Jonathon L. McGowen, 27, of South Bend, Ind., 90 days in jail, $535 in fines and costs and $2,000 in restitution for larceny by conversion, $200 to $1,000 Jan. 2 in Three Oaks Township.

Jacob D. Bailey, 35, of Old Pipestone Road, Eau Claire, 7-15 years in prison, credit for 294 days served, $198 in costs and $20,630 in restitution for second-degree home invasion Dec. 9, 2019, in St. Joseph; and two concurrent terms of 29 months to 5 years in prison, $266 in costs and $2,000 in restitution for two counts of larceny of a firearm, between Jan. 1, 2019, and Feb. 7, 2019, in Pipestone Township.

Drugs

Derrick L. Reed, 40, no permanent address, 30 days in jail and $198 in costs for possession of narcotics, less than 25 grams cocaine, May 12 in Benton Harbor; and a concurrent term of 30 days and $198 in costs for tampering with an electronic device, cutting off a jail tether, Aug. 21 in Benton Harbor.

Fleeing police

Steven A. Cobb, 43, of East Smith Street, Buchanan, 2-5 years in prison and $198 in costs for third-degree fleeing police in a vehicle May 27 in Pipestone Township.

Contraband in jail

Theresa F. Blackston, 22, of Wilopaw Motel, Coloma, 15 days in jail, credit for 3 days served, and $198 in costs for possession of contraband, liquor, March 1 in the Berrien County jail.

Trump golfs in Florida as COVID relief hangs in the balance

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

PALM BEACH, Fla. — President Donald Trump spent his Christmas golfing in Florida as a government shutdown looms and COVID relief hangs in the balance.

Trump, at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach for the holidays, had no events on his public schedule after throwing the future of a massive COVID relief and government funding bill into question. Failure to sign the bill, which arrived in Florida on Thursday night, could deny relief checks to millions of Americans on the brink and force a government shutdown in the midst of the pandemic.

The White House declined to share details of the president's schedule, though he was expected to golf Friday with South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham, a close ally.

White House spokesman Judd Deere said Trump was briefed on the explosion in downtown Nashville early Friday that authorities said appeared to be intentional, but the president said nothing publicly about it in the hours after.

Trump tweeted that he planned to make "a short speech to service members from all over the world" by video conference Friday to celebrate the holiday, but declared: "Fake News not invited!" Without giving details, the White House said only that Trump would work "tirelessly" during the holidays and has "many meetings and calls."

Trump's vacation came as Washington was still reeling over his surprise, eleventh-hour demand that an end-of-year spending bill that congressional leaders spent months negotiating give most Americans $2,000 COVID relief checks – far more than the $600 members of his own party had agreed to. The idea was swiftly rejected by House Republicans during a rare Christmas Eve session, leaving the proposal in limbo.

The bipartisan compromise had been considered a done deal and had won sweeping approval in the House and Senate this week after the White House assured GOP leaders that Trump supported it. If he refuses to sign the deal, which is attached to a $1.4 trillion government funding bill, it will force a federal government shutdown, in addition to delaying aid checks and halting unemployment benefits and eviction protections in the most dire stretch of the pandemic.

"Made many calls and had meetings at Trump International in Palm Beach, Florida. Why would politicians not want to give people $2000, rather than only $600?" he tweeted after leaving the golf course Friday afternoon. "It wasn't their fault, it was China. Give our people the money!"

Trump's decision to attack the bill has been seen, at least in part, as political punishment for what he considers insufficient backing by congressional Republicans of his campaign to overturn the results of the Nov. 3 election with unfounded claims of voter fraud.

"At a meeting in Florida today, everyone was asking why aren't the Republicans up in arms & fighting over the fact that the Democrats stole the rigged presidential election?" Trump tweeted Thursday.

"I will NEVER FORGET!" he later added.

Trump for weeks now has refused to accept the results of the election and has been pushing new, increasingly outrageous schemes to try to overturn the results. He has been egged on by allies like his lawyer, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who accompanied the president to Florida aboard Air Force One.

Trump has provided no credible evidence to support his election claims, which have been refuted by a long list of officials, among them judges, former Attorney General William Barr, Republican governors and local election administrators.

U.S. to require negative COVID-19 test from UK travelers

ATLANTA (AP) — The United States will require airline passengers from Britain to get a negative COVID-19 test before their flight, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced late Thursday.

The U.S. is the latest country to announce new travel restrictions because of a new variant of the coronavirus that is spreading in Britain and elsewhere.

Airline passengers from the United Kingdom will need to get negative COVID-19 tests within three days of their trip and provide the results to the airline, the CDC said in a statement. The agency said the order will be signed Friday and go into effect on Monday.

"If a passenger chooses not to take a test, the airline must deny boarding to the passenger," the CDC said in its statement.

The agency said because of travel restrictions in place since March, air travel to the U.S. from the U.K. is already down by 90 percent.

Last weekend, Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the new variant of the coronavirus seemed to spread more easily than earlier ones and was moving rapidly through England. But Johnson stressed "there's no evidence to suggest it is more lethal or causes more severe illness," or that vaccines will be less effective against it.

This week, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said three airlines with flights from London to New York – British Airways, Delta and Virgin Atlantic – had agreed to require passengers to take a COVID-19 test before getting on the plane. United Airlines on Thursday agreed to do the same for its flights to Newark, New Jersey.

Britain has been under considerable pressure since the word of the new variant of the virus was made public. Some 40 countries imposed travel bans on Britain, leaving the island nation increasingly isolated.

France relaxed its coronavirus-related ban on trucks from Britain on Tuesday after a two-day standoff that had stranded thousands of drivers and raised fears of Christmastime food shortages in the U.K.

French authorities said delivery drivers could enter by ferry or tunnel provided they showed proof of a negative test for the virus.

But the French restrictions were particularly worrisome, given that Britain relies heavily on its cross-Channel commercial links to the continent for food this time of year.

City of New Buffalo Michigan

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Candidate must have the physical strength, agility, endurance and ability to work outdoors, occasionally under adverse weather conditions. The following physical demands will be necessary at varying frequencies while performing the job: standing for long periods of time, walking, use of hands, reaching, climbing or balancing; stooping, kneeling, crouching or crawling. May be required to lift and/or move heavy objects.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

Photos by Don Campbell / HP file photo

Deputy Oscar Hnanicek works the security checkpoint at the main entrance to the Berrien County Courthouse on May 27. Several new courthouse requirements were put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keeping the wheels of justice moving

Berrien courts have been forced to adapt in innovative ways in 2020

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

Seating availability is limited, due to the pandemic, as social distancing guidelines are enforced at the courthouse.

ST. JOSEPH — If you asked Judge Mabel Mayfield in February what she planned to do first as Berrien County Trial Court's new chief judge, she would not have said she'll be navigating the courts through a pandemic.

But when the COVID-19 pandemic hit full-speed in March, keeping the justice system moving became her biggest challenge.

"The Michigan Supreme Court recognized the impact this was going to have," Mayfield said. "We've had a lot of bumps along the way, because the guidance changes every day, sometimes several times a day."

Trial Court Administrator Carrie Smietanka-Haney said trials came to a halt in March, and resumed in August, with social distancing, plexiglass installed in jury boxes, and a mask mandate in place.

"We held about 10 trials, then they stopped again in October," Smietanka-Haney said.

The state Supreme Court has now ordered all in-person jury trials on hold at least through January.

"Yes, there's a backlog. But when we get back to normal, we could feasibly conduct several trials a week," Smietanka-Haney said.

She said in normal times, the county averages one trial a week.

Mayfield said court employees adapted "quickly and well" as orders and guidance came at them from several different directions.

She said throughout the county, there has been collaboration among judges, lawyers and community partners to keep the system moving, although in a much different way.

Mayfield said judges are setting lower bonds so more people can afford to bond out of jail, more court appearance tickets are being issued rather than taking people to jail for non-violent crimes, and more people are being released on tether.

Defendants are being arraigned via Zoom, either from their homes, from lawyer's offices or from places like churches that have offered use of their Internet services for defendants who do not have Internet at home.

"Everyone has been flexible and our staff has been really good at rolling with the punches," Smietanka-Haney said. "Everybody has concerns, but I have 100 percent confidence that we'll get through. We've learned a lot and have been able to manage."

While many court appearances are being conducted virtually, jury trials are not.

"You have to be able to have a clear transcript and a good record, and that's been a challenge," Mayfield said.

Defense lawyers and prosecutors say it's important to conduct jury selection in person because lawyers observe things such as body language.

Berrien County's Chief Public Defender Paul Jancha Jr. said the pandemic has been tough on his office, the prosecutor's office, clients and alleged victims.

"But there's been a very significant collaborative effort to get folks released from jail, whether it's a bond reduction or early release on a sentence," Jancha said. "There has absolutely been a collaborative effort. We're arguing for lower bonds and the courts are receptive to that."

Jancha acknowledged that for people facing the most serious charges, who cannot be released while awaiting trial, "it's a very difficult situation."

He said those cases will be first up when the court can resume trials.

"Yes, there are some folks facing very serious charges who are waiting a long time in jail. I have several of them. I tell them we don't want to have these trials when jurors might feel uncomfortable and worried about becoming sick," he said. "We want jurors to be able to listen to the evidence without being distracted. Our clients understand that."

Barry Conybeare, owner of Conybeare Law Office in St. Joseph, said if he'd been told in February that most of his staff of 13 would be working from home and handling cases remotely, "I would not have believed it."

However, Conybeare said, "we've been able to make the transition and we've been able to do it quite well. It is all being handled darn smoothly and efficiently, and I'm proud of everyone involved."

Clients are encouraged to sanitize their hands at the Berrien County Public Defender's office when conducting ZOOM calls with the courthouse during the pandemic.

A personal injury law firm, Conybeare Law Office has 13 employees, including six lawyers.

"All our depositions are virtual. I haven't been in a courtroom physically since March," Conybeare said. "We're able to Zoom with clients, other lawyers and with the court. Things are running more on time by Zoom. There's less waiting around, and we're more efficient with our time."

Conybeare said the transition has been "interesting."

"I think this transition will accelerate people's acceptance of technology and more things will continue to be virtual," he said.

Conybeare said most civil cases are resolved before they go to trial. But with trials on hold, "My greatest worry is our ability to get to a settlement, because a settlement has to happen before the trial date. Now, with no trial dates, there's no deadline, and that can be a problem."

And once the pandemic is over and the courts are back to full capacity, Conybeare said, health concerns might linger and "I'm worried about what trials might look like. It might affect people's ability to listen and argue persuasively."

Mayfield said the court will never go completely back to the way it was, and she believes that's a good thing.

"We've learned so much from the adjustments and how we've had to adapt. For the last two years we've done strategic planning for increasing our use of technology for many services," she said.

"We've been forced to try these things, and there's a benefit for some people, such as those who don't have transportation. We've become more efficient in so many areas, why would we go back to the way we were?"

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

Berrien COVID-19 numbers continue on good trend this week

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

Berrien County was steadily heading down the other side of the third wave of the coronavirus pandemic this week.

The county recorded 344 new COVID-19 cases this week compared to 493 last week and 742 the week before.

While new cases continue to decrease, the number of deaths are still high, as deaths lag behind spikes in cases.

Berrien County recorded 13 more COVID deaths this week. While that's less than the 19 recorded last week, it's still higher than the 11 recorded the week before that.

Recoveries were huge again this week, with 974 being recorded. Last week the county added 1,096 recoveries and the week before that 648.

With deaths and recoveries, Berrien County has about 2,687 active COVID-19 cases. That's down significantly from 3,330 last Friday and 3,952 the Friday before that.

In total, since March, the county has recorded 8,470 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 5,624 recoveries, 159 deaths and 630 presumed cases. That's an additional 26 presumed cases since last Friday.

COVID hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland fluctuated frequently this week, though were still down significantly from last week. There was an average of about 42 patients admitted a day compared to about 62 patients a day last week. The average hasn't been in the 40s since early November.

Percent positivity rates continued to decline this week, with Berrien County having just under a 10 percent rate. The previous week the rate was about 14.5 percent.

The state and the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department did not update COVID-19 totals Thursday or Friday because of the holiday.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

Good Fellow Fund nears 2020 goal

The Good Fellow Fund has pushed tantalizingly close to its overall goal of raising $35,000. With the collections tabulated just before the Christmas holiday, the fund now stands at $34,115.

The fund, which is administered by The Herald-Palladium, collected an additional $3,020, when combining the mail in donations, the money collected by the Southwest Michigan Exchange Club, and money collected through our online donation page.

Please help put us over the top, as donations are being accepted through the end of the year. They can be mailed to The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085, or made online at www.TheHP.com/goodfellows.

Here are donations that were mailed in or dropped off this week: S.E. Conybeare, $100; Shirley & Michael Leith, $75; Marcia Bowers, $40; Merrily Smith, $35; Michigan P.E.O. Chapter DV, $60; Midwest Timer Service, Inc., $500; Anonymous, $100; Tri Coloma, LLC, $50; Michigan P.E.O. Chapter DV, $520; Mamie & Charles "Mickey" Yarbrough, $20; Emma Crenshaw, $20; Frank & Peggy Alsup, $100; Beverly Selent, $150; and Kruggel Lawton CPA, $500.

Donations collected online include: Anonymous, $50; anonymous, $20; Victoria Thompson, $50; Earl & Claudette Becher, $30; Carol Geldhof, $100; Don & Sharon Alsbro, $50; Cammie Hernandez, $25; anonymous, $500; Bob Cultice, $50; and Tom & Lacy Kubash, $25.

OBITUARIES

Susan Russell

June 11, 1938 – Dec. 19, 2020

Susan was born in St. Joseph to Robert and Ruth Scott on June 11, 1938.

On Dec. 19, 2020, she died peacefully at home in her favorite room, surrounded by her husband, Richard; and her children: Keith, Sara, and Andy.

Susan's favorite flower was the sunflower, and anyone that was blessed to have met her will immediately know how fitting this was with her unfailing ability to brighten a room, lift spirits, and bring hope and light in dark times. To her children, she was the sun on their backs and the rock in their worlds, and there was never a doubt that she was a "Mama Bear" standing behind them, always ready.

Susan was a teacher. After graduating from St. Joseph High School in 1956. she earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, and an educational specialist degree from Eastern Michigan University, in Ypsilanti, Mich.

While studying for her first degree, she met Neal Sawyer from Elkhart, Ind., and they were married in 1959.

After graduation they began an adventurous time as Neal was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army, and spoke fluent Spanish, which took them to South and Central America. Over the next few years, they lived in Panama and Bolivia, as well as North Carolina, California and Maryland. Ever the multitasker, during this time Susan became a fluent Spanish speaker, raised three children, and continued to sew clothing for her family.

On their return to St. Joseph, she taught in the Benton Harbor public school system for almost 30 years where she shared her passion for children's literature, literacy and reading. She also taught children's literature at Lake Michigan College. After retirement she continued to teach, working with friends and strangers sharing her love of quilting, rug hooking, spinning, and the fiber arts.

Susan was a maker and a learner. She was in constant motion every waking hour, and her hands were always busy. Quilting was her particular favorite pastime; over the course of her life, she completed hundreds of quilts. She was an active member of numerous fiber arts groups including the Berrien Towne and Country Quilt Guild, Niles Hand Weavers, Lakeshore Rug Hookers, and a founding member of the Quilts of Valor, The Appliqué Society, and The Bridgman Quilting Bees. All of her children and grandchildren have quilts crafted by her busy hands. Having learned how to quilt and sew from her mother and grandmother, she was proud to know that several of her children and grandchildren learned to sew from her. Susan also enjoyed rug hooking, knitting, spinning, and dabbled in paper making, book binding, printmaking and weaving.

But above all, Susan was a servant. She shared her energy and passion with her family and her community. She didn't invent the motto "it is easier to ask forgiveness than permission," but she certainly lived it when it came to helping others. She was an advocate of adult literacy, race relations, gender equality and LGBTQ rights, among a few. She sat on a number of local boards including the Twin City Symphony, where she served as president. St. Augustine Episcopal Church in Benton Harbor was her spiritual home, and she was a Vestry member and active in the social life of the church. In the last weeks of her life, she was still receiving phone calls from church members who just needed someone to talk to. She always had a ready ear and a shoulder to cry on if needed.

Susan was preceded in death by her mother, Ruth Reynolds; her father, Robert Scott; her stepsister, Barb Reynolds; her great-nephew, Mike Story; and two husbands: Neal Sawyer and George Schuler.

Instead of referring to those that are left behind by her passing as "survivors," perhaps it would be more fitting to think of them as the germinating seeds of the sunflower that was her life, seeds spreading her love and passion. These include her super-husband, Richard Russell; three children: Keith Sawyer (Brigette), Andy Sawyer (Nita Nicholie), and Sara High (Ken); her sister, Pat Anderson (Wayne Anderson), and stepsister Kathy Camp. Special seeds in her life were her eight grandchildren: Aaron, Zachary (fiancée, Claire), Patrick, Rose, Kearra, AnnieRuth, Alex, and Ryan; and one great-grandchild, Jayden. Her love was too big for one family and other seeds that she nurtured were the dozens of foster children, homeless kids, and children in need that she welcomed into her family.

She will forever be shining her light on her Thursday quilt group, The Bridgman Quilting Bees, her Sunshine Girls Group, and the family of St. Augustine Episcopal Church.

If you met Susan, then she planted a sunflower seed in you, honor her life by nurturing your seed with kindness, love, and acceptance, and by learning, creating, making, teaching and above all, serving.

The family kindly requests that donations in Susan's honor be made to either St. Augustine Episcopal Church Food Bank or to Caring Circle of Lakeland (Hospice).

A memorial service will be celebrated at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph. Those wishing to send a condolence online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Death notices

Marian Barton, 89, of St. Joseph died Dec. 18, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Terry Bradley, 63, of Grand Rapids, formerly of Benton Harbor died Dec. 13, 2020. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Malachi K. Dezale, 18, of Benton Harbor died Dec. 21, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Stanislaw E. Gorski, 70, of Stevensville died Dec. 19, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Sharie Howard-Moore, 72, died Dec. 21, 2020. Legacy Cremation Service, Berrien Springs.

Bettye Lange, 50, of Three Oaks died Dec. 19, 2020. Pobocik Chapel, Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks, 756-3831.

Arthur Lockwitz, 98, of St. Joseph died Dec. 23, 2020, at AMITA Health St. Alexius Medical Center, Hoffman Estates & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Service St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Jack Plummer, 91, of Niles died Dec. 24, 2020, at home. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 83-1155..

Jeanne Rogge, 61, of Niles died Dec. 23, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Alvina Ruiz, 90, of Niles died Dec. 23, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Susan Russell, 82, of St. Joseph died Dec. 19, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Erika I. Siebert, 92, of Mishawaka, Inc., died Dec. 23, 2020. Hahn Funeral Home, Mishawaka, Ind., 574-255-1474.

Bernard Skala, 80, of Three Oaks died Dec. 21, 2020. Pobocik Chapel, Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks, 756-3831.

T. Roger Sullivan, 80, of Powell, Ohio, died Nov. 20, 2020. Shaw Davis Funeral Home, Columbus, Ohio.

T. Roger Sullivan

Dec. 30, 1939 – Nov. 20, 2020

T. Roger Sullivan died peacefully Nov. 20, 2020, at his home in Powell, Ohio.

Born on Dec. 30, 1939, in Chicago, Roger grew up in Beverly where he earned the title of Eagle Scout and played the saxophone in a dance band. He later graduated from Bradley University, married Sarah "Sally" West, and raised two daughters.

In 1976, Roger traded his career as a stockbroker for 40 acres of grapes and asparagus on 44th Street, Paw Paw, which he never regretted and was where he lived for over 43 years. It was in Paw Paw he helped coach girls soccer; scoured Reit's Flea Market for treasures and tools; published a story in the American Airlines magazine; waxed his 442; practiced tai chi with his dear friends at the Senior Center; paddled and sailed; hosted Iron John retreats complete with sweat lodge; grew vegetables and cats; got the newspaper with best dog Dex; and harassed the waitstaff at Brewster's with his abettor Phil Carter.

In 1995, Roger earned his master's degree from Western Michigan and pursued his true calling as a psychologist at Riverwood Center in Benton Harbor. One of the last things Roger was keen to accomplish and did was voting by mail for change in this year's presidential election.

Roger is survived by his daughters: Tess (Jeff) Grote of Powell, and Laura (Alexander Tadic) Sullivan of Dune Acres, Ind.; siblings: Bub Sullivan of Sacramento, Calif.; Terry Sullivan of Vashon Island, Wash.; John Olander of Conover, Wis.; June Levora of Fairfield Glade, Tenn., and Jan Kirkpatrick of Crete, Ill.; grandchildren: Sadie and Max Grote, and Philip and Nicholas Tadic.

Consistent with his tendency to repurpose things, Roger donated his body to science at The Ohio State University. There will be a memorial service after Roger's ashes are returned. In Roger's memory, please consider donating to the tai chi program at the Senior Services of Van Buren County, 1635 76th St., South Haven, MI 49090.

Roger's daughters would like to thank Tranquility Hospice and Home Helpers Home Care, both located in Delaware, Ohio, for making their dad's last months among his happiest.

Bernard Larry Skala

March 27, 1940 – Dec. 21, 2020

Bernard "Bernie" Larry Skala, 80, of Three Oaks died peacefully Monday, Dec. 21, 2020.

He was born on March 27, 1940, in Baroda, the third child born to August Sr. and Alma Skala.

He married Maxine Dee Kirk on Sept. 23, 1967, in New Troy Brethren Church, New Troy.

Bernard and Maxine purchased and built Skala Farms in 1967. He grew the farm for his three boys and was incredibly proud to see them continue the legacy they began. Bernie was passionate about being a farmer, especially working with his Allis-Chalmers tractors and equipment. He enjoyed spending time working in his yard, riding his bicycles, and helping others in his community. He cherished his many cats and dogs that he had over the years. Bernie also spent a number of years working for Clark Equipment in Buchanan.

Bernie will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Maxine D. Skalam of Three Oaks; three sons: Jeff, Todd, and Chad Skala, all of Three Oaks; one sister, Jan Bergeron of Plymouth, Ind.; one brother, August (Shirley) Skala Jr., of Buchanan; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Juanita Dufchek; one niece, Jodie Dufchek; and two brothers-in-law: Ray Dufchek and Ronald Bergeron.

Family and friends will gather from 1 p.m. until time of service at 3 p.m., Dec. 28, in the Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks.

Mr. Skala will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Three Oaks, where full military honors will be accorded by active members of the U.S. Army, and the Honor Guard of the Randall Couchman American Legion Post 204 of Three Oaks.

The family prefers contributions in Bernard's memory be made to American Parkinson Disease Association, Post Office Box 61420, Staten Island, NY 10306.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Marian Ann Barton

Aug. 5, 1931 – Dec. 18, 2020

Marian Ann Barton died at 5 p.m., Dec. 18, 2020. Marian lived all her life in St. Joseph.

She was born on Aug. 5, 1931, to Harry and Elizabeth (Maul) Geisler. She married the love of her life, Robert Barton, on April 7, 1951.

Throughout her life, Marian maintained a warm and welcoming home for her family and friends, and expressed her love by preparing special meals and desserts. Her chocolate chip cookies, strudels, pies and special clown birthday cakes are fondly remembered. Her recipes, and the special love she put into her baking, continue to delight, having been passed down through her children and grandchildren to her great-grandchildren.

Marian drove a special education bus for Blossomland Learning Center for 13 years and was very fond of her "bus kids." She also volunteered for many years at Red Cross blood drives and at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph, in its physical therapy section, cheering patients with a warm smile and a kind word as she assisted them through their difficult times. Throughout her life, Marian enjoyed spending Sunday dinners, vacations and holidays with her extended family.

She was a lifelong and active member of Zion St. Joe United Church of Christ, and also enjoyed bowling, travel and playing card games with her family and friends.

In retirement, Marian and Bob spent their winters in Biloxi, Miss., where she enjoyed the buffets at the local casinos and indulged her husband's passion for golf, joining him for many rounds over the years.

Marian is survived by her husband of 69 years, Robert Barton; her daughter, Kathy Barton; her son and daughter-in-law, Tom (Denise) Barton; and her son and daughter-in-law, Jim (Mary Mason) Barton. She also is survived by her sister, Dona Wolske; nine grandchildren, Jeremy and Jason Langdon, LaVon Broderick, Suzie Every, Tim Barton and Julie Barton, and Sarah Barton, Katherine Mason and Peter Barton; 12 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Due to the pandemic, a funeral will be held with only the immediate family. A celebration of life is planned for her birthday next summer, when circumstances should permit her family and friends to safely gather together. Burial will be in Riverview Cemetery next to her parents.

Memorials can be made to Zion St. Joe United Church of Christ or Caring Circle of Lakeland.

Those wishing to sign Marian's online memory book can visit www.starks-menchinger.com.

Sharie Howard-Moore

Jan. 16, 1948 – Dec. 21, 2020

Sharie Louise Howard-Moore, 72, died Dec. 21, 2020.

Sharie was born in Fort Worth, Texas, on Jan. 16, 1948, to Don and Jean Moore. She had an older sister, Carolyn.

She leaves behind her mother, Jean; and sons: Paul and John.

A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, at Village Seventh-day Adventist Church, Berrien Springs.

She was a creative and loving person who enjoyed the beauty of nature. She will be missed, and remembered fondly.

Bettye Jean Lange

March 14, 1970 – Dec. 19, 2020

Bettye Jean Lange, 50, of Three Oaks died peacefully Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020.

She was born March 14, 1970, in LaPorte, Ind., one of four children born to Leonard and Beverly Wallen.

Bettye enjoyed making crafts, especially decorating bottles, to give as gifts. She was an avid fan and collector of all things The Wizard of Oz. She cherished spending time with her granddaughter. Bettye will be remembered for always being kind hearted and being willing to help anyone.

Bettye will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her partner of 18 years, Tom McReynolds of Three Oaks; one daughter, Amanda Pinks of LaPorte, Ind.; one son, Dylan Lange of Three Oaks; one granddaughter, Kinslie Jayde; one sister, Lois (Ray) Strahler of Ohio; her twin brother, Chris (Kathy) Wallen of Kingsford Heights, Ind.; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and one brother, William Wallen.

The family would like to say a special thank you to her good friend "Tammy" for being by her side and helping her tremendously.

Family and friends will gather from 1 p.m. until time of service at 3 p.m., Jan. 2, 2021, in the Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks.

The family prefers contributions in Bettye's memory be made to Betty's Buddies, Post Office Box 363, Three Oaks, MI 49128.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Terry Bradley

July 27, 1957 – Dec. 13, 2020

Terry Bradley, 63, of Grand Rapids formerly of Benton Harbor transitioned into eternity Dec. 13, 2020, at home with his caregiver. Cremation has taken place. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.robbinsbrothersfh.com.

Terry was born July 27, 1957, to Fanie Joe and Annie Bell Bradley.

Terry leaves to mourn his children: Chenita Young of Florida, Daimen Bradley Thomas of Detroit; brothers: Danny Bradley of Benton Harbor, Calvin (Margaret) Bradley and Jerry (Margaret) Bradley; sisters, Joann (Joe) Lewis, Ruby Bradley of Sacramento, Betty (Jacques) Floyd of North Carolina; three grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

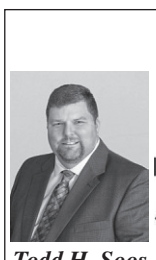
Terry is preceded in death by his dad, Fanie; and brothers: Charles Bradley and Raymond Bradley.

See more obituaries on Page A5

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Local News Editor Dale Brewer at 429-3797.



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In Loving Memory

Sunshine

November 25, 1981 – December 25, 1994

I miss you everyday baby girl.
I will till we are together again.

When someone you love becomes a memory,
the memory becomes a treasure.
In loving memory of all my treasures on the rainbow bridge that will never be forgotten.

Tippy 1991, Sam 1991, Sunshine 1994, Lester 1995, Spooky 1999, Resin 2002, Bubbi 2003, Daisy 2005, Chuck 2005, Lucy 2006, Starbrite 2009, Twilight 2010, Sierra 2016, Ashley 2018, Gisele 2020

Love forever,
Mom

See more obituaries on Page A4

Stanislaw E. Gorski

April 12, 1950 – Dec. 19, 2020

Stanislaw E. Gorski, 70, of Stevensville passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020, surrounded by family at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Funeral Home, 2650 Niles Road, St. Joseph.

Stanislaw was born in Nowy Sacz, Poland, on April 12, 1950, to the late Jan and Helena (Baran) Gorski.

He is survived by his wife, Krystyna; son, Adam; and daughter, Ewa of Stevensville; brothers: Jozef, and Franciszek Gorski; and a sister, Michalina Nowobilska, all living in Poland.

Stanislaw was vice president at the District Cooperative of Supply and Sale in Nowy Sacz, Poland, and he was honored when selected for the prestigious one-year engineer exchange program, which brought him to America for the first time in 1980.

He returned to America in 1983 and married the love of his life, Krystyna, on July 27, 1985, and welcomed his son and daughter; who all were the center of his life. He lived in Stevensville for the remainder of his life where he worked and retired from Robert Bosch in St. Joseph.

Stanislaw was a family-oriented man, known by all for his indomitable spirit and selflessness. He was an excellent problem solver, handyman, and was always a step ahead. Stanislaw enjoyed spending time with his family, gardening, birdwatching and dancing with his wife. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Services will conclude with burial following the Mass in Hickory Bluff Cemetery, Stevensville. Visitation with the family precedes the service from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Starks & Menchinger Funeral Home. Friends wishing to leave the family a message of condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

OBITUARIES

Jackie Ray Hess

Sept. 23, 1950 – Dec. 23, 2020

Jackie Ray Hess, 70, of Covert was called home Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, at Ascension Borges Hospital, Kalamazoo.

Services celebrating his life will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, at Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home in Coloma where the family will receive friends beginning one hour prior to the service. Burial will follow in Fish Cemetery in Covert.

Donations in memory of Jack may be made to the Covert Fire Station EMS Training or the Covert Police Training Program. Those wishing to leave an online message of remembrance may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Jack was born Sept. 23, 1950, to Alfred and Hazel (Kendall) Hess of Moberly, Mo. He was the youngest boy of 10 children.

He married Mary (Shearn) Hess, on Dec. 5, 1969, in Newark, Ohio, where they started their family of four children. They moved to Coloma in 1984, where he was the owner and operator of Jack's Excavating & Trucking, LLC, and JH Mobile Home Moving Services, LLC.

Jack was a pillar of the Covert and Coloma communities, where he was always giving back. Rather it be giving to families in need or popping in with donuts for the fire department or township hall. He was awarded Lion of the Year and an honorary member of the Son's of Amvets. His home was always open to family and friends, where he had many gatherings. Jack was always the life of the party and will be missed by many.

He is survived by his four children: Tracy Looney, Arnold (Sonya) Hess, Hazel Hess, and Christina (D.J.) Clayton, all of Coloma; seven grandchildren: Joshua and Becca, Tre'Michael Ray, Zanye, Zackary, Bridget and Mason, Kristofer and Kristen, and Erin and Nick; eight great-grandchildren: Jackson, Callum, Kolten, Reagan, Scarlett, Eli, Landon, and Hunter Ray; a brother, Big Al (Val) Hess; a sister, Barbara Johnson; sister-in-law, Pam Hess; many nieces; nephews; and his devoted companions: Dawn Alspaugh and Lucky Duck.

He was proceeded in death by his wife, Mary, in 2018; parents: Hazel and Alfred, and Oris and Marion; his brothers and sisters: Paul, Doris, Melvin, Patty, Bobby, Wayne and Junior.

Erika I. Siebert

May 20, 1928 – Dec. 23, 2020

Erika I. Siebert, 92, of Mishawaka passed away Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020.

Erika was born on May 20, 1928, in Germany and was the daughter of the late Don and Anna (Scholz) Herrick.

She married the love of her life, Walter Siebert, on May 24, 1947, in Germany. Walter passed away only 25 days prior to Erika's passing. Erika is also preceded in death by her son, Walter; and her daughter-in-law, Sherill.

Erika is survived by her children: Werner Siebert and Juergen (Carolyn) Siebert; granddaughter, Noelle (Clayton); great-granddaughter, Anja; as well as a host of extended family members.

In January 1956, Erika and Walter moved their family to the United States and settled in St. Joseph. Erika began her new life in America as a full time mother and homemaker while her boys were young. Later on she worked as a baker and as a bookkeeper. She was also an active member in The Benton Harbor Chapter of DANK. In 1974 Erika and Walter moved to Mishawaka, Ind., to the house they built and loved. Erika became involved in the local garden club and enjoyed her plants and gardening. She had an artistic touch to everything she tried.

Erika will be missed by many but is back together with Walter, her husband of 73 years. The family would like to thank The Center for Hospice Care, with a special thanks to Nicole and Michele for the extraordinary care they gave Erika.

A private family service will be held for Erika. Donations in Erika's honor may be made to the Center for Hospice, 501 Comfort Place, Mishawaka, IN 46545. To leave an online condolence or to share a memory, please visit www.hahnfuneralhomes.com.

JoAntha Raines

March 8, 1958 – Dec. 13, 2020

JoAntha Raines, 62, of Benton Harbor departed this life Dec. 13, 2020, in St. Joseph.

A service celebrating her life will be Dec. 28, at Word of Truth, Benton Harbor. The visitation begins at 11 a.m. followed by the service at noon. Those wishing to sign the guest book online may do so at www.robbinsbrothersfh.com.

JoAntha was born on March 8, 1958, to the union of Willie S. and Maxine Kelly. She dedicated her life to the Lord and joined Word of Truth Deliverance Church and was baptized.

JoAntha was a loving mother, grandmother, sister, and aunt who loved to smile.

She leaves to cherish her memory her father, Willie (Beverly) Kelly; daughter, Ya'nesha Smith; sons, Yuri Smith, Che Eddie Sr.; sisters: Cassandra (Randy) Kelly-Jones, Willa Kelly, Regina Kelly, Kimberly Kelly, Michelle Anderson, Roshanna (Bryan) Williams, Tabitha Kelly, LaVeeda Smith Colston; brothers: Michael Gray, Darien Kelly; grandchildren: Yasmine (Kaleel) Moss, Ja'nyla Adams, Tanaisa Washington, Yuri Smith Jr., Yuriah Smith; and a host of uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

She is preceded in death by her daughter, JoAndra Smith; husband, Ronald Raines; mother, Maxine Turner-Kelly; grandmothers: Mattie Turner, Maydie Kelly; grandfathers: Zelma Turner Louis Smith, Sherman Kelly; brothers: Gregory Kelly, Thaddues Bowman Kelly; sister: Ebony Kelly; grandson, Elijah Boyd; great-nephew, Karlos Kelly; aunts: Rosalis Delaveaux, Diane Woolfolk; and uncle, Gene Earl Beene.

BIRTHS

Lakeland Medical Center – St. Joseph

Baroda – Girl, 7 pounds, 9 ounces, Amber and Bryant Sears, 3:51 a.m. Dec. 24.

Benton Harbor – Boy, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, Ambriana Davis, 6:36 a.m. Dec. 18.

Benton Harbor – Boy, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, Jalisa McElrath, 8:10 a.m. Dec. 21.

Benton Harbor – Girl, 7 pounds, 11 ounces, Shamira Scott and Ja'Quon Evans, 8:47 a.m. Dec. 25.

St. Joseph – Girl, 8 pounds, 1 ounce, Alexandra Crumb and William Russell, 7:44 p.m. Dec. 22.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

ST. JOSEPH – The following marriage licenses have been issued by Berrien County Clerk Sharon Tyler.

Kimberly Ann Barron and Blake Steven Dilley both of St. Joseph.

Alicia Marie Bowen of South Bend and Christopher Dennis Wakefield of Baroda.

Alicia Lynn Hatfield of St. Joseph and Scott Allen Igert of Benton Harbor.

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269-927-4012

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

Ken Cholewa of Berrien Springs and four of his brothers have created Blessings – Expressions of Faith, a company offering a collectible series of handcrafted nun dolls whose habits replicate those of many Catholic orders. The other brothers involved are Tom, Dan, David and Tony. Tom and Ken earlier operated Genuine Nun Doll Inc., which they started in St. Joseph in 1986, and moved to Benton Harbor in 1989. The 20-inch tall vinyl dolls are being manufactured by a company in Ohio. The habits the dolls wear are being sewn in St. Joseph. An 18-page catalog will be ready to mail in January.

1985 – 35 years ago

The South Haven Housing Commission is considering a proposed medical alert system for senior citizens living in two housing projects for the elderly, according to Gilbert Jillson, commission vice chairman. Under the system, an individual would have a pendant equipped with a transmitter, which, when pressed, would automatically ring an emergency telephone number. The system, known as "Lifeline," is being considered for residents in the Harbor View and River Terrace apartments.

1970 – 50 years ago

The girls may have been a Women's Liberation Meeting, but they weren't tending their own gardens, because a 10-year-old Benton Harbor boy has won a prize in a national gardening competition. Kirk Davis, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Davis of Benton Harbor, won honorable mention and a prize in the 1970 Young America Garden Contest sponsored by the Flower and Garden Foundation of Kansas City, Kan. Kirk entered the competition along with more than 100 other boys and girls enrolled by the Benton Harbor 4-H program.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, Dec. 26, the 361st day of 2020. There are five days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 26, 2004, more than 230,000 people, mostly in southern Asia, were killed by a 100-foot-high tsunami triggered by a 9.1-magnitude earthquake beneath the Indian Ocean.

On this date:

In 1776, British forces suffered a major defeat in the Battle of Trenton during the Revolutionary War.

In 1799, former President George Washington was eulogized by Col. Henry Lee as "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

In 1908, Jack Johnson became the first African-American boxer to win the world heavyweight championship as he defeated Canadian Tommy Burns in Sydney, Australia.

In 1910, the London Palladium, Britain's famous variety theater, first opened.

In 1917, during World War I, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation authorizing the government to take over operation of the nation's railroads.

In 1941, during World War II, Winston Churchill became the first British prime minister to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Snow
33°	27°	41° / 28°	34° / 21°	30° / 23°	37° / 31°

Local Outlook

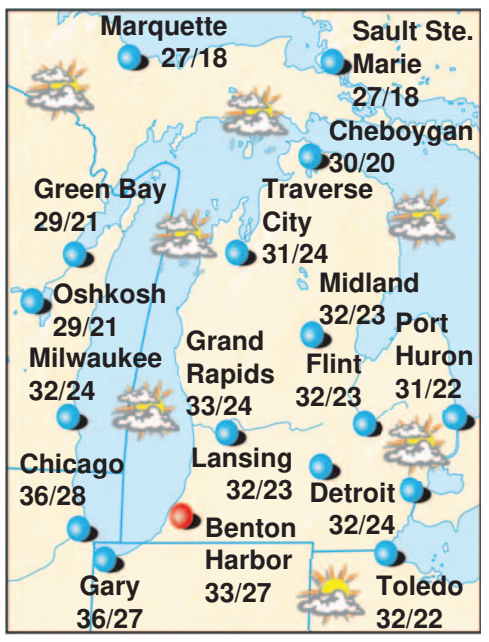
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 33°, humidity of 60%. West southwest wind 3 to 10 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 27°. South wind 3 to 6 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 22°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 8:13 a.m.
Sunset ..... 5:20 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 3:01 p.m.
Moonset ..... 4:50 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
12/29	1/6	1/13	1/20

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Thursday

Temperature

High	18°
Low	14°
Normal High	32°
Normal Low	19°
Record High	44° in 2015
Record Low	-5° in 2004

Precipitation

Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	1.67"
Normal for month	1.73"
Year to date	33.70"
Normal Year to date	37.06"

Air Quality

Yesterday 35
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

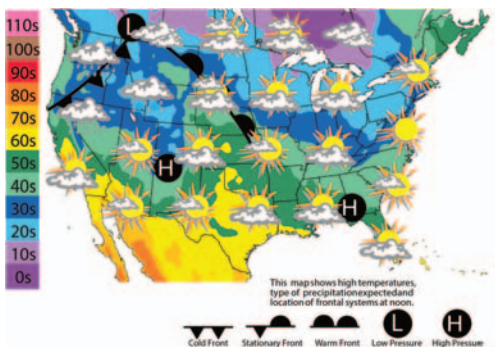
Weather Trivia

How many years is the sun's solar cycle? ?

Answer: Eleven years.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 26, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, W wind 10 to 13 kt. Partly sunny. Waves 2 to 3 ft. Water temperature 28 degrees. Tonight, WSW wind around 8 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 1 ft or less.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with scattered snow showers, highs in the 20s and 30s. West wind 9 to 13 mph. Expect cloudy skies Sunday with highs in the 20s and 30s. Southeast wind 7 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s. West southwest wind 3 to 10 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Sunday with highs in the 30s and 40s. South southeast wind 6 to 11 mph.

CREEK

From page A1

would be complicated.

Little said his house is built into a hill, with a finished basement that walks out to the backyard.

His basement includes a washing machine and a bathroom. If the sewer line is switched to the front of the house, Little would have to install a pump to raise the sewage to street level.

"I have no interest in a pump," he said. "If the power went out, all of the sudden, nothing's happening. It's a constant maintenance issue. I don't think I've got to do that. That thing's been under there since 1957."

Patrick said township and county officials are trying to make them pay to fix a problem they did not create.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

CHRISTMAS

From page A1

St. Peter's Basilica to tens of thousands in St. Peter's Square. Tourism in Italy has virtually vanished and the government's coronavirus restrictions for the holidays foiled any plans by locals to flock to the square.

Citing a cause for optimism, Francis said the invention of COVID-19 vaccines shines "lights of hope" on the world. In a passionate appeal to leaders, businesses and international organizations, he said they must ensure that the most vulnerable and needy in the pandemic be first in line to receive the vaccines.

Bells rang out around Bethlehem as the traditional birthplace of Jesus celebrated. But the closure of Israel's international airport to foreign tourists, along with Palestinian restrictions banning intercity travel in the areas they administer in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, kept visitors away.

In Beijing, official churches abruptly canceled Mass after China's capital was put on high alert following two confirmed COVID-19 cases last week. Two new asymptomatic cases were reported Friday.

With economies reeling around the world, it wasn't a year of lavish gifts. Robin Sypniewski of Middlesex County, New Jersey, was furloughed twice from her job serving school lunches and is now on reduced hours as her husband retires next week as a trash collector and her daughter wrestles with student debt.

Sypniewski, 58, bought her daughter pajamas, compared to a diamond bracelet last Christmas. Her husband got a $20 plaque describing his Polish heritage, compared to a tablet computer last year.

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hp SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

SJ's Shinrock earns all-state honor

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

St. Joseph wide receiver Griffin Shinrock was selected first-team all-state in Division 3-4 football by the Associated Press.

Shinrock caught 37 passes for 781 yards and 13 touchdowns. He returned a kickoff 95 yards for the game-winning touchdown against Battle Creek Lakeview, and also played defensive back. He helped the Bears to a 7-2 record.

Shinrock will play at Grand Valley State next season, where Bears defensive lineman Samuel Simpson will continue to be his teammate.

Simpson earned honorable mention after leading St. Joseph with 55 tackles, including 19 for loss and three sacks.

Lakeshore's strong defense led it to a 7-2 record and a district championship, and its two top tacklers earned honorable mention.

Defensive lineman Evin Koeppe had a team-high 53 tackles, including nine for loss, with two sacks and two fumble recoveries.

Linebacker Treyjen Keim made 50 tackles, with six for loss, two fumble recoveries and an interception. Keim also played offense, carrying the ball 32 times for 287 yards and three scores.

DeWitt's Holtz named top player

Tyler Holtz knew what was at stake.

The junior quarterback figured the DeWitt football program had an opportunity to put together another special season after back-to-back state semifinal appearances.

Holtz was driven to be a factor in that success and take over as the starter under center this fall.

Holtz simply did what has always come naturally and spent the offseason focused on turning himself into the best quarterback possible.

And, it paid off because he was voted as player of the year by The Michigan Associated Press in Division 3-4 football.

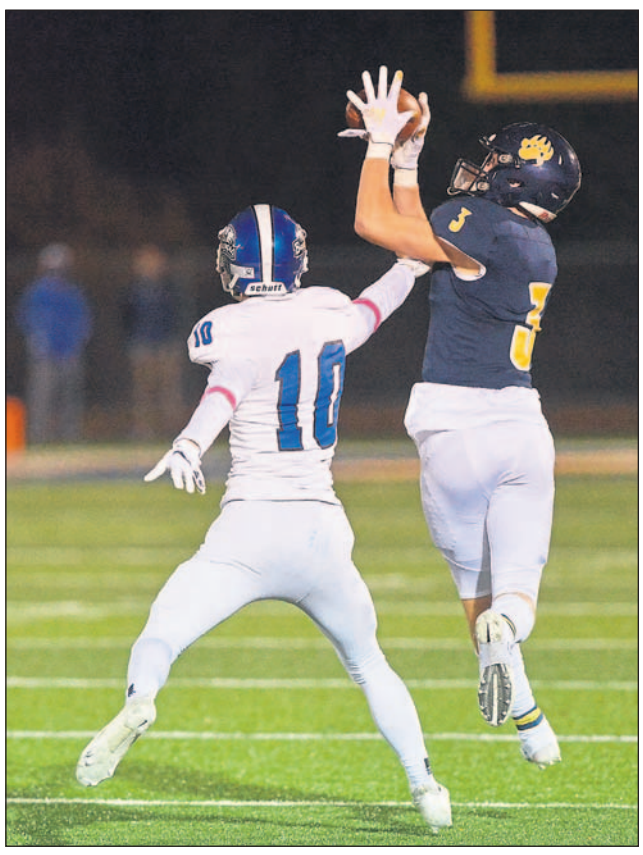
"I knew what I wanted to do this season and I knew the goals that our team had for this year," Holtz said. "I kind of just had that mentality of you've got to work if you want to achieve those goals. We set our goals high. Those goals are going to take some work. I'm glad that I put in the work that I did and made some sacrifices that I made."

That work has translated into a big season for Holtz, who emerged as one of the state's top players and made the Panthers one of the top teams that averaged 48.8 points. Holtz has thrown for 2,109 yards, 32 touchdowns and just one interception through nine games.

He will lead the DeWitt, the top-ranked Division 3 team, into a regional final against Stevensville Lakeshore when the pandemic-paused postseason resumes.

"I wasn't really expecting to do what I've done this year," said Holtz, who also has 318 yards rushing and two touchdowns. "It's all because of my team. I couldn't do it without them. That's the biggest thing for me. Every time I think about it, I just go back to the guys. I'm super grateful for the team that I'm on to be honest."

See SHINROCK, page B2



Don Campbell / HP staff

St. Joseph's Griffin Shinrock pulls in a reception over Harper Creek's Bailey Bush and heads for a touchdown during the first half of a district semifinal on Nov. 6.

Busy times for new Senior PGA director

Haney involved in upcoming Ryder Cup as well as 2022 Harbor Shores event

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Editor

Brandon Haney will be a busy man for the next year-and-a-half.

Haney, recently announced as the new Championship Director for the 2022 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores, will also continue as operations manager for the 2021 Ryder Cup, which will be held in September.

HANEY

"I will be taking on this role as well as my role over there," Haney said. "I'm very fortunate to have good teammates. I really lean on our team here."

Haney served as an operations assistant for the Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores in 2014, then as operations manager in 2016 and 2018. In that role, he was responsible for setting up temporary infrastructure – "essentially the city that we build on the golf course" – and hiring operations assistants. He lived in the area from June 2015 to November 2018.

"That made the decision to come back that much easier," Haney said. "I've really enjoyed my time here. This has been a special place for me. It's really the people here that make it great. It really makes working these events so much fun. I'm really excited to get back and be around all the great people associated with this event."

Haney left for another tournament that has been a big part of his golf life, the Ryder Cup.

The unique event, which pits the United States against Europe every two years, first attracted him into the golf world as an operations assistant in 2012.

"The Ryder Cup is an event like no other," Haney said. "That was the first golf event I attended and I ever worked at. I'll always remember the first day of gates opening and hearing 'USA' chants."

Haney returned to his home state of Wisconsin to help manage the 2020 Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits, which was postponed until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The coronavirus also caused the cancellation of the 2020 Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores, giving Haney the challenge of keeping the event popular

"I know the planning was in a really good spot heading into 2020," Haney said. "Interest was at a high level."

The golf is also likely to be at a high level, as a number of strong

See HANEY, page B2

This Trice wears red

Al Goldis / AP

Michigan State's Joshua Langford (left), Rocket Watts (right) and Wisconsin's D'Mitrik Trice vie for the ball during the first half of Friday's game.

Travis Trice's younger brother scores 29, No. 9 Wisconsin beats No. 12 Michigan State

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

EAST LANSING — D'Mitrik Trice had to play on the road Christmas Day and still got to celebrate one of his best games with his family in the house.

Wisconsin 85 Michigan St. 76

Trice scored a season-high 29 points, lifting No. 9 Wisconsin to an 85-76 win over No. 12 Michigan State on Friday.

Trice's parents, older brother, Travis, and his grandma were among the dozens of fans in the stands. The family used to cheer for the Spartans when his older brother, Travis, played for Tom Izzo from 2011-15.

"It was just great to see them and for them to travel up here and us to get the win on Christmas, it's a big deal," he said. "I was able to have six tickets for myself and coach Izzo was gracious enough to give my older brother three tickets."

Izzo acknowledged he didn't recruit D'Mitrik Trice because he didn't project him to development into one of the Big Ten's top players.

"I think we would've offered him a scholarship, I think he would've come," Izzo said.

Trice is in his fifth year at Wisconsin, where he steadily improved enough to become a third-team, All-Big Ten player last year.

"I've known him since he was little and the way he was grown is a credit to him," Izzo said.

The Badgers (8-1, 2-0 Big Ten) won at the Breslin Center for the first time since 2004 and extended their Big Ten winning streak to 10 games, dating to last season when they shared the conference championship with the Spartans and Maryland.

To celebrate, players poured water on coach Greg Gard in the locker room.

"Just really proud of the team," Gard said. "They doused me with water, so I had to change my mask. I'll have to change everything before we jump on the plane."

Michigan State (6-2, 0-2) led by nine points early in the second half before struggling down the stretch at both ends of the court. Wisconsin scored 14 of the last 21 points over the final 4:03 to turn a closely contested game into a lopsided result.

"Disappointed to get a nine-point lead and you just don't step on their throat," Izzo said.

Joey Hauser scored a career-high 27 points, but he didn't get much help from his teammates offensively. Aaron Henry was the only other Spartan to score in double figures, but he was 5 of 13 from the field for 12 points and had seven turnovers.

The Badgers, meanwhile, had balance with four double-digit scorers and they combined to score the most points in program history in a win over a ranked team.

Wisconsin's Aleem Ford scored 13 points while Brad Davison and Micah Potter each had 11.

Big picture

Wisconsin: Trice, Ford and Davison are seniors Gard can lean on all season. They make plays at both ends of the court with and without the ball.

"Those kids have played together for four and five years," Izzo said. "You can pull for a team like that. You can appreciate a team like that."

Michigan State: Turnovers have become a problem for a team that prides itself on being efficient offensively. The Spartans turned over the ball 14 times and Wisconsin scored 24 points off those giveaways.

"We had a couple turnovers that were dumb mistakes," Hauser said. "That was one of the biggest deciding factors in this game."

Claps back

Michigan State had fans in the stands for the first time

See SPARTANS, page B2

Wagner, No. 19 Michigan return with win over Nebraska

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Franz Wagner had 20 points and No. 19 Michigan scored 10 straight points early in the second half to pull away from Nebraska in an 80-69 victory Friday night.

Michigan 80 Nebraska 69

Michigan (7-0, 2-0 Big Ten) started slow in its first game since Dec. 13 but stunned Nebraska (4-5, 0-2) with the two-minute flurry that began with Isaiah Livers' 3-pointer. Wagner close it with a 25-footer that put the Wolverines up 53-41 with 14:38 remaining.

Nebraska put together an 11-2 run, highlighted by a steal and breakaway dunk by Trey McGowens, and cut the Michigan lead to 64-60 on McGowens' free throws with 6:20 left.

The Wolverines countered with a 7-2 spurt, going up 71-62 on Eli Brooks' fast-break layup with 4:45 remaining. Nebraska didn't get closer than six the rest of the way.

Playing after a long delay due to coronavirus concerns, Michigan struggled to get on track from long distance in the first half, hitting just 4 of 17 3-point attempts. Nebraska led for much of the half behind 21 points from Teddy Allen, who finished with a career high 25.

Livers had 17 points for the Wolverines. Hunter Dickinson had 13 points and 15 rebounds, Chaundee Brown, Jr. had 13 points and Mike Smith had 10 points

Dalano Banton had 17 points for Nebraska and McGowens had 15 points.

Big picture

Michigan: This is the third consecutive season Michigan has begun 7-0.

Last year's Wolverines opened 7-0 before losing to No. 1 Louisville. In 2018-2019, Michigan started the year 17-0, a school record.

Nebraska: Lost its 11th straight game to a ranked team. The Huskers' last win over a ranked team was a 69-61 win over No. 21 Maryland in the 2019 Big Ten Tournament.

Its last home win over a ranked team was against No. 23 Michigan in 2018.

Up next

Michigan is at Maryland on Thursday.

Nebraska is at Ohio State on Wednesday.

HEISMAN CONTENDERS
ON DISPLAY IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

BY RALPH RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

The College Football Playoff has included the Heisman Trophy winner five times in its six-year history and could very well do so again this season.

We just won't know it until after the semifinals are played.

Notre Dame and Alabama will meet Jan. 1 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, after a late pandemic-related relocation from the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Clemson and Ohio State are set to play the same day at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans if all goes according to plan in this pandemic-altered season.

The national championship game is scheduled for Jan. 11 in South Florida.

In a normal season, the Heisman is handed out the week after the regular-season ends. But this season, the winner won't be revealed until four days after the semifinals on Jan. 5.

As usual, this season's semifinals all feature a Heisman contender _ or three.

Trevor Lawrence leads No. 2 Clemson into the Sugar Bowl against No. 3 Ohio State and star quarterback Justin Fields, whose candidacy has cooled after a poor Big Ten championship game.

On the other side of the bracket, No. 4 Notre Dame and quarterback Ian Book head to Texas, where they will be greeted by top-ranked Alabama's three-headed Heisman monster of quarterback Mac Jones, receiver DeVonta Smith and running back Najee Harris.

"I followed all of their scores. And they have been a buzz saw against everybody," Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said of the Tide.

The Fighting Irish (10-1) are back in the playoff for the second time in three seasons, becoming the first team to lose a conference title game and make the final four. It was a novelty made possible only because of the pandemic, which pushed the famously independent Irish into a conference for the first time in school history.

The Atlantic Coast Conference is the second league to have two teams in the playoff, joining the SEC in 2017.

After sitting second in the CFP rankings for a month, Notre Dame was blown out 34-10 by Clemson in the ACC championship. That opened the door for No. 5 Texas A&M (8-1), but the Aggies were unable to become the third team in the playoff's seven-year history to make the field without even winning its conference division.

Selection committee chairman Gary Barta, the Iowa athletic director, said Notre Dame's extra victory against a ranked opponent helped give the Irish an edge over Texas A&M.

"A great part of our discussion was related to those two resumes," Barta said.

Notre Dame beat Clemson and North Carolina, which had been 15th in the previous playoff rankings. Texas A&M's only victory against a CFP team was Florida. The Aggies played Alabama in October and lost by 28 points.

The decision didn't go over well in Aggieland: Texas A&M quarterback Kellen Mond tweeted: "JOKE." The Aggies can take out their frustrations on North Carolina in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 2.

Barta said the disparate number of games played by contenders — along with far fewer cross-conference games than usual —- was a challenge for the committee all season. But Ohio State's six-game schedule was not as important to the panel as the Buckeyes going undefeated and winning the Big Ten.

Oklahoma surged to sixth in the final rankings after closing with seven straight victories and a Big 12 title. The Sooners will face seventh-place Florida in the Cotton Bowl on Dec. 30.

Unbeaten Cincinnati finished eighth, making the Bearcats the top-ranked team among Group of Five conference champions and guaranteeing them a spot in one of the New Year's Six bowls. Cincinnati will meet Georgia in the Peach Bowl on New Year's Day.

Pac-12 champion Oregon will face Iowa State in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2.

Notre Dame's reward will be a matchup with Alabama (11-0), the Southeastern Conference champion that is back in the playoff for the sixth time after missing out last year. The last time the Fighting Irish and Crimson Tide played was the 2012 BCS championship game and the Tide won 42-14.

Clemson (10-1) is in the CFP for the sixth straight season, only missing out on the first playoff. Ohio State (6-0) is making its fourth appearance. The Tigers have won two playoff titles and the Buckeyes won the first after the 2014 season.

Clemson-Ohio State is a rematch of last season's dramatic semifinal in Arizona, won 29-23 by the Tigers. The two teams also met at the Fiesta Bowl in the 2016 playoff and Clemson beat the Buckeyes 31-0.

Instead of having more than three weeks to prepare for the playoff, the altered regular-season schedules mean the semifinals are 12 days away.

"It's very different to prepare," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "It's basically like an open date."

AP CONTENT BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2020-21 BOWLS SCHEDULED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND BEYOND
All Times EST

THURSDAY, DEC. 24
New Mexico Bowl Frisco, Texas
Hawaii vs. Houston, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

FRIDAY, DEC. 25
Camellia Bowl Montgomery, Ala.
Buffalo vs. Marshall, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

SATURDAY, DEC. 26
Gasparilla Bowl Tampa, Fla.
UAB vs. South Carolina, Noon, (ABC)

Cure Bowl Orlando, Fla.
No. 12 Coastal Carolina vs. Liberty, Noon, (ESPN)

SERVPRO First Responder Bowl Dallas
No. 19 Louisiana vs. UTSA 3:30 p.m. (ABC)

Lendingtree Bowl Mobile, Ala.
W. Kentucky vs. Georgia St., 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

MONDAY, DEC. 28
Military Bowl Annapolis, Md.
ACC vs. American, 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)

TUESDAY, DEC. 29
Cheez-It Bowl Orlando, Fla.
No. 18 Miami vs. No. 21 Oklahoma St., 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Alamo Bowl San Antonio
No. 20 Texas vs. Colorado, 9 p.m. (ESPN)

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30
Duke's Mayo Bowl Charlotte, N.C.
Wisconsin vs. Wake Forest, Noon (ESPN)

Music City Bowl Nashville, Tenn.
No. 15 Iowa vs. Missouri, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Cotton Bowl Classic Arlington, Texas
No. 6 Oklahoma vs. No. 7 Florida, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)

THURSDAY, DEC. 31
Armed Forces Bowl Fort Worth, Texas
No. 24 Tulsa vs. Mississippi St., Noon (ESPN)

Arizona Bowl Tucson, Ariz.
No. 22 San Jose St vs. Ball State., 4 p.m. (CBSSN)

Liberty Bowl Memphis, Tenn.
Tennessee vs. West Virginia, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Texas Bowl Houston
TCU vs. Arkansas, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

FRIDAY, JAN. 1
Peach Bowl Atlanta
No. 8 Cincinnati vs. No. 9 Georgia, Noon (ESPN)

Citrus Bowl Orlando, Fla.
No. 14 Northwestern vs. Auburn, 1 p.m. (ABC)

College Football Playoff Semifinal Game 1
Arlington, Texas
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Notre Dame, 5 p.m. (ESPN)

Sugar Bowl New Orleans
College Football Playoff Semifinal Game 2
No. 2 Clemson vs. No. 3 Ohio St., 8:45 p.m. (ESPN)

SATURDAY, JAN 2
Gator Bowl Jacksonville, Fla.
No. 23 NC State vs. Kentucky, Noon (ESPN)

Outback Bowl Tampa, Fla.
No. 11 Indiana vs. Ole Miss, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)

Fiesta Bowl Glendale, Ariz.
No. 10 Iowa vs. No. 25 Oregon, 4 p.m. (ESPN)

Orange Bowl Miami Gardens, Fla.
No. 5 Texas A&M vs. No. 13 North Carolina, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

MONDAY, JAN. 11
College Football Championship
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Semifinal Game 1 winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

SHINROCK

From page B1

DeWitt coach Rob Zimmerman sensed in the offseason Holtz had an opportunity to be a special player with his athleticism, intelligence and work ethic. Holtz has made his mark and added to a strong line of quarterback play that has annually made DeWitt one of the state's top teams.

"We have been very fortunate to have an awful a lot of great high school quarterbacks," Zimmerman said. "I think the thing that separates (Holtz) is his work ethic. We've had a lot of kids that have worked extremely hard, but there's no way we've had anybody that's worked any harder than Tyler has. When you're willing to grind like that, you certainly have a chance to be special.

"We'll see how we end up with the rest of the season, but we've certainly never had a kid that has put together any better season than him."

Joining Holtz on the Division 3-4 all-state squad are Detroit King quarterback Dante Moore; running backs Brandon Martin of North Branch. Nico Hernandez of Madison Heights Lamphere, Kolby Hindenach of Paw Paw and Malekhi Obande of Hudsonville Unity Christian; receivers Grand Rapids South Christian's Elliott Grahuis, DeWitt's Tommy McIntosh, St. Joseph's Griffin Shinrock and Chelsea's Joe Taylor; linemen Detroit King's Brandon Honorable, River Rouge's Devontae Miles, Milan's Dylan Beck, Detroit Country Day's Caleb Tiernan, Flint Powers' Logan Murray, Wyoming Godwin Heights' Ru'Quan Buckley, Zeeland East's Tag Bonnema and Mount Pleasant's Josh Schell; linebackers Edwardsburg's Drew Bidwell, DeWitt's Andrew Debri, North Branch's Drake Deshetsky and Detroit King's Jaylen Reed; defensive backs Armorion Smith of River Rouge, Christion Stokes of Harper Woods, Tyreese Oakes of Muskegon and Desmond Mullen of Marquette; Goodrich specialist Tyson Davis; Orchard Lake St. Mary's kicker Tommy Doman; Fowlerville punter Morgyn Muck while North Branch's Jeremy Ferman and Madison Heights Lamphere's Art Maisano were the co-coach of the year.

Newman scores 17, Purdue holds off Maryland 73-70

WEST LAFAYETTE (AP) — Brandon Newman scored 17 points, Eric Hunter Jr. added 16 and Purdue held off Maryland 73-70 on Friday.

Hunter was credited with a basket after a goaltending call with 38.4 seconds left to give Purdue a 72-70 lead, and the teams combined to go 1 for 6 from the free-throw line the rest of the way. Hunter missed two at the stripe with 1.8 seconds left and Donta Scott did not hit the rim on a full-court heave at the buzzer.

Jaden Ivey had 11 points and Trevion Williams added 10 with eight rebounds for Purdue (7-3, 2-1 Big Ten). The Boilermakers won their 50th conference game at home since the 2014-15 season.

The Boilermakers made seven of their first ten shots from distance, and led 41-28 at halftime.

HANEY

From page B1

newcomers have joined the 50-and-over PGA Tour Champions since its last visit to Harbor Shores.

Phil Mickelson and Jim Furyk both turned 50 this year, and both won their first two PGA Tour Champions events. Steve Stricker, the U.S. Ryder Cup captain for 2021, has also been a top player on the tour recently.

"The field for the PGA Tour Champions is about as good as it's ever been," Haney said. "Guys like Phil, they'll come out here and they'll certainly draw a crowd. I know the crowds will certainly come out and watch some of these big names."

Contact: bsanders@TheHP.com, 429-1294, Twitter: @HPBen Sanders

SPARTANS

From page B1

this season, inviting family members from both teams to attend the game after the state allowed limited spectators at indoor sporting events.

There were about 50 people in previously empty seats supporting the Spartans while the Trice family sat in its own area of the mostly empty arena.

Scoring notes

Wisconsin had its highest total against Michigan State since 1994 and scored more than any other game at Michigan State since an 86-82 win in 1976.

Up next

Wisconsin: hosts Maryland on Monday night.

Michigan State: plays at Minnesota on Monday night.

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When it comes to Veterans Benefits, many veterans and dependents don't know what they don't know. Nationwide, less than 10% of those eligible apply. Let us help to educate and navigate you thru the maze of what is available from discharge to death. Here are some of the many benefits:

★ Disability Compensation benefits for prior conditions, diseases or injuries that occurred in service or many years later as a result of service (e.g. Agent Orange Exposure, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – combat or personal trauma) to name a few.

★ PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center who come to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.

SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Buffalo	11	3	0	.786	407	340
Miami	9	5	0	.643	352	257
New England	6	8	0	.429	289	301
N.Y. Jets	1	13	0	.071	206	413

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	10	4	0	.714	399	320
Tennessee	10	4	0	.714	436	361
Houston	4	10	0	.286	315	386
Jacksonville	1	13	0	.071	275	423

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Pittsburgh	11	3	0	.786	366	264
Cleveland	10	4	0	.714	368	374
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	403	287
Cincinnati	3	10	1	.250	271	355

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Kansas City	13	1	0	.929	435	310
Las Vegas	7	7	0	.500	377	421
Denver	5	9	0	.357	276	395
L.A. Chargers	5	9	0	.357	327	389

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	6	8	0	.429	302	295
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	339	433
N.Y. Giants	5	9	0	.357	244	311
Philadelphia	4	9	1	.321	303	361

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	11	4	0	.733	449	330
Tampa Bay	9	5	0	.643	401	321
Atlanta	4	10	0	.286	355	353
Carolina	4	10	0	.286	323	356

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Green Bay	11	3	0	.786	434	339
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	318
Minnesota	6	9	0	.400	393	440
Detroit	5	9	0	.357	335	435

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Seattle	10	4	0	.714	413	339
L.A. Rams	9	5	0	.643	345	269
Arizona	8	6	0	.571	391	329
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	333	352

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Friday's Game
New Orleans 52, Minnesota 33

Saturday's Games
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:30 p.m.
Miami at Las Vegas, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Atlanta at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Houston, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 4:05 p.m.
Denver at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Seattle, 4:25 p.m.
Philadelphia at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 8:20 p.m.

Monday's Games
Buffalo at New England, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 3
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at New England, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Arizona at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.
Las Vegas at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Seattle at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

2020-21 Bowl Glance

Wednesday, Dec. 23
New Orleans Bowl
Georgia Southern 38, Louisiana Tech 3
Montgomery (Ala.) Bowl
Memphis 25, FAU 10

Thursday, Dec. 24
New Mexico Bowl
Frisco, Texas
Hawaii 28, Houston 14

Friday, Dec. 25
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Buffalo 17, Marshall 10

Saturday, Dec. 26
Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
No. 9 Coastal Carolina vs. No. 23 Liberty, 7:30 p.m., (ESPN)
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Dallas
No. 16 Louisiana vs. UTSA 3:30 p.m. (ABC)
Lendingtree Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
W. Kentucky vs. Georgia St., 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Dec. 29
Cheez-It Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
No. 18 Miami vs. Oklahoma St., 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
No. 20 Texas vs. Colorado, 9 p.m. (ESPN)

Wednesday, Dec. 30
Duke's Mayo Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
Wisconsin vs. Wake Forest, Noon (ESPN)
Music City Bowl
Nashville, Tenn.
No. 15 Iowa vs. Missouri, 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington, Texas
No. 8 Oklahoma vs. No. 10 Florida, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Thursday, Dec. 31
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
No. 22 Tulsa vs. Mississippi St., Noon (ESPN)
Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
No. 19 San Jose St. vs. Ball State., 2 p.m. (CBSSN)
Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
West Virginia vs. Army, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Texas Bowl
Houston
TCU vs. Arkansas, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 1
Peach Bowl
Atlanta
No. 6 Cincinnati vs. No. 11 Georgia, Noon (ESPN)
Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
No. 15 Northwestern vs. Auburn, 1 p.m. (ABC)
College Football Playoff Semifinal Game 1
Arlington, Texas
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 4 Notre Dame, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Sugar Bowl
New Orleans
No. 2 Clemson vs. No. 3 Ohio St., 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Saturday, Jan 2
Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
No. 24 NC State vs. Kentucky, Noon (ESPN)
Outback Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
No. 7 Indiana vs. Mississippi, 12:30 p.m. (ABC)
Fiesta Bowl
Glendale, Ariz.
No. 12 Iowa State vs. No. 25 Oregon, 4 p.m. (ESPN)
Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
No. 5 Texas A&M vs. No. 14 North Carolina, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 11
College Football Championship
Miami Gardens, Fla.
Semifinal Game 1 winner vs. Sugar Bowl winner, 8 p.m. (ESPN)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	Pct	All Games W	L	Pct
Virginia Tech	1	0	1.000	7	1	.875
Syracuse	1	0	1.000	6	1	.857
Florida St.	1	0	1.000	5	1	.833
Louisville	1	0	1.000	5	1	.833
NC State	1	0	1.000	5	1	.833
Duke	1	0	1.000	3	2	.600
Pittsburgh	1	1	.500	5	2	.714
Wake Forest	0	0	.000	2	0	1.000
Clemson	0	1	.000	6	1	.857
Virginia	0	0	.000	4	1	.800
Miami	0	1	.000	4	2	.667
North Carolina	0	1	.000	5	3	.625
Georgia Tech	0	1	.000	4	3	.571
Notre Dame	0	1	.000	3	4	.429
Boston College	0	1	.000	2	5	.286

Saturday's Games
Kentucky at Louisville, 1 p.m.
Virginia vs. Gonzaga at Fort Worth, T.X., 4 p.m.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	Pct	All Games W	L	Pct
Michigan	2	0	1.000	7	0	1.000
Wisconsin	2	0	1.000	9	1	.900
Northwestern	2	0	1.000	5	1	.833
Iowa	1	0	1.000	7	1	.875
Rutgers	2	1	.667	6	1	.857
Purdue	2	1	.667	7	3	.700
Illinois	2	1	.667	6	3	.667
Ohio St.	1	1	.500	7	1	.875
Minnesota	0	1	.000	7	1	.875
Michigan St.	0	2	.000	6	2	.750
Indiana	0	1	.000	5	3	.625
Maryland	0	2	.000	5	3	.625
Penn St.	0	2	.000	3	3	.500
Nebraska	0	2	.000	4	9	.308

Friday's Games
Wisconsin 85, Michigan St. 76
Purdue 73, Maryland 70
Michigan 80, Nebraska, 69
Iowa at Minnesota

Saturday's Games
Ohio St. at Northwestern, 2 p.m.
Indiana at Illinois, 4 p.m.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	Conference W	L	Pct	All Games W	L	Pct
Toledo	2	0	1.000	7	3	.700
Ball St.	2	0	1.000	4	3	.571
Akron	1	0	1.000	3	1	.750
Bowling Green	1	0	1.000	5	2	.714
Buffalo	1	1	.500	3	3	.500
W. Michigan	1	1	.500	2	5	.286
Kent St.	0	0	.000	3	1	.750
Ohio	0	1	.000	4	3	.571
Cent. Michigan	0	1	.000	4	4	.500
Miami (Ohio)	0	1	.000	3	3	.500
E. Michigan	0	1	.000	1	2	.333
N. Illinois	0	2	.000	1	6	.143

Sunday's Games
Olivet at E. Michigan, 2 p.m.

NBA

Friday's Games
Miami 111, New Orleans 98
Milwaukee 138, Golden State 99
Brooklyn 123, Boston 95
Dallas at L.A. Lakers
L.A. Clippers at Denver

Saturday's Games
Atlanta at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Cleveland at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phila. at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Toronto at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Utah, 9 p.m.
Houston at Portland, 10 p.m.
Phoenix at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
Brooklyn at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Washington, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Phila. at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Boston at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Sacramento, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

Monday's Games
Detroit at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Memphis at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Utah at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 9 p.m.
Portland at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

FOOTBALL
National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed TE Seth DeValve and K Mike Nugent to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed LB Dennis Gardeck on injured reserve. Elevated LB Terrance Smith to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed K Brett Maher to the practice squad.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed CB Tramaine Brock and G Evan Brown to the active roster from the practice squad.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Placed LB Whitney Mercilus on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed DB Logan Ryan to a three-year extension through 2023.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Placed LB Ulysees Gilbert on injured reserve.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Activated TE George Kittle from injured reserve. Activated OL Colton McKivitz from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Promoted DL Darrion Daniels to the active roster from the practice squad. Activated DL Alex Barrett and TE Daniel Helm from the teams practice squad for COVID-19 replacement. Activated CB Tim Harris Jr. and WR Jordan Matthews from the practice squad. Placed RB Raheem Mostert and QB Nick Mullens on injured reserve.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Elevated CB Herb Miller to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed QB Drew Stanton to the practice squad.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Activated WR Kalif Raymond from the COVID/reserve list.

Canadian Football League

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS — Signed WR Bralon Addison to a two-year contract.

HOCKEY
East Coast Hockey League

ALLEN AMERICANS — Signed D Kayle Doetzel to the active roster.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer

SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES — Signed F Chris Wondolowski to a one-year contract.

National Premier Soccer League

ORANGE COUNTY FC — Signed F Eero Markkanen.

Robinson, Bears must beat Jaguars, who may need to lose

By MARK LONG
AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Allen Robinson opted out long before it became a regular thing.

Robinson was the most notable player to leave Jacksonville following its most successful season in nearly two decades. He chose to hit free agency in 2018 instead of re-signing with the team that drafted him 61st overall four years earlier. He landed in Chicago and is one of three NFL players with at least 90 catches and 1,100 yards in each of the past two seasons.

Allowing him to walk – the Jaguars could have placed the franchise tag on him – was one of the front office's most significant missteps after the team nearly knocked off New England in the AFC championship game.

Jacksonville will get a stark reminder of the error Sunday when Robinson faces his former team for the first time as the skidding Jaguars (1-13) host the playoff-hopeful Bears (7-7). It's a must-win game for Chicago and essentially a must-lose for Jacksonville.

"I'm excited for sure," Robinson said. "But I wouldn't say (it's) anything significant at all."

His homecoming could mean more to Jaguars fans eager to see their team falter in its final two games.

Jacksonville (1-13) has lost 13 in a row, tying the team record set in 2013, and is now in position to get the No. 1 pick – presumably Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence – in the 2021 NFL draft.

Beating the Bears likely would knock the Jags out of the prime position, prompting countless hours of tanking talk in and around Jacksonville this week.

"The fans are kind of lifers," Jaguars quarterback Mike Glennon said. "A lot of us are on one-year deals. You never know where you're going to be, so you always have to put your best foot forward. Our focus is on the present, this week, rather than what's going to happen with the draft."

The most popular opinion locally and nationally is Jacksonville can't afford to mess this up after whiffing so often at the all-important quarterback position.

Losing Robinson should have served as a lesson.

Jacksonville spent significant draft capital and more than $35 million in free agency trying to replace him – and still haven't. They used second-round picks on receivers DJ Chark and Laviska Shenault. They re-signed Marqise Lee and ultimately paid him $16.8 million for three catches netting 18 yards. They brought in Donte Moncrief, giving him a one-year deal worth $9.6 million in 2019, and signed Chris Conley.

None of them has been able to truly fill Robinson's cleats. He has 90 catches for 1,110 yards and six touchdowns this season, helping make the Bears a legitimate playoff contender.

"If you've coached them, you want them to do well," Jaguars coach Doug Marrone said. "You just hope when you're playing against them, they don't do as well as they've been doing."

Robinson is generally considered one of the top receivers to ever play in Jacksonville, right up there with Jimmy Smith and Keenan McCardell, and that's without a consistently solid quarterback situation.

He caught passes from Chad Henne and Blake Bortles in Jacksonville before relocating to an equally unstable QB situation involving Mitchell Trubisky, Chase Daniel and Nick Foles.

"It helped me grow as a player a lot," Robinson said of his early years. "I think I went through just some adversity. I wouldn't say a lot of adversity, but going through some adversity as a young player in the league I think helped mold who I am today and how I approach things."

More homecomings

Robinson won't be the only one facing a former team Sunday. Glennon spent the 2017 season in Chicago, starting four games before giving way to Trubisky. Bears quarterbacks coach John DeFilippo, backup Foles and safety Tashaun Gipson spent time in Jacksonville under Marrone.

QB decision

Marrone opened up Jacksonville's starting QB job this week, saying Glennon or Gardner Minshew will get the nod after a weeklong competition in practice.

Glennon started three games before getting yanked following his fourth interception in six quarters.

Minshew regained the starting spot last week at Baltimore, but he was sacked five times and missed several open receivers deep. He also took a safety, lost a fumble and had an interception that was returned for a touchdown negated by a roughing-the-passer penalty.

Brady-led Bucs can clinch playoff spot with win over Lions

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

DETROIT — Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are rolling into the Motor City with a chance to clinch a spot in the playoffs.

"This is why we play, to put your team in a place and give yourself an opportunity to compete for a championship," Brady said.

The six-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback and the Bucs (9-5) are a victory away from earning a spot in the postseason for the first time since 2007.

"I call them 'Hat and T-Shirt' games," Tampa Bay coach Bruce Arians said. "You get a hat and a T-shirt when you get in the playoffs. It's a great feeling for those guys. That was the goal this year – it was to get in the dance."

The out-of-contention Detroit Lions (5-9) will likely be very accommodating Saturday at fan-free Ford Field.

Detroit will be led by Robert Prince, its third head coach, because interim coach Darrell Bevell became the NFL's first head coach to miss a game because of COVID-19 protocols. The Lions will also be without defensive coordinator Cory Undlin and other assistant coaches because of contact tracing.

"It's super disappointing," said Bevell, who is 1-2 since replacing fired coach Matt Patricia. "I'm frustrated. Since we've started, I've tested negative. So, there's that whole part of it. You don't quite understand all the stuff that goes along with it, then there's that drive that you want to be there."

Heating up

Antonio Brown is coming off his most productive game since making his Bucs debut last month following an eight-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. He had five catches for a season-best 93 yards, including a 46-yard touchdown that capped last week's comeback win over Atlanta.

"Obviously as a teammate (and) someone who knows him pretty well, he's done a lot of work to get to this point," Brady said. "Just proud of him, his focus, how he's prioritized different things."

The 32-year-old Brown has 30 receptions for 310 yards and one touchdown in six games.

"He's doing the best with his opportunities," Arians said.

New-look staff

Detroit's offense and defense will be led by coaches who have never had that responsibility in the NFL.

Quarterbacks coach Sean Ryan will make calls in place of Bevell, who also serves as the team's offensive coordinator. Evan Rothstein, who helps the team behind the scenes with research and analysis, will handle Undlin's game-day job with the defense.

"I'm confident in what those guys know and how they'll be able to handle it," Bevell said.

Comeback bucs

Tampa Bay has rallied to win after trailing by at least 10 points to win four times, tied with the New Orleans Saints for the most in the NFL this season. The Bucs been outscored 59-7 in the opening quarter over their past six games. They overcame the deficit to beat three sub-.500 teams and lose to three teams with winning records.

"You can win against teams that aren't going to make the playoffs right now, but I don't think we will win too many playoff games spotting a team 17 points," tight end Cameron Brate acknowledged. "It's going to be something we're going to have to figure out."

Isolation play: College hoops teams fend off holiday loneliness

By DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Eric Curry texted his mom last week. He needed a headshot of her and his sister.

The photo request was not for a social media post or a scrapbook project, but rather an effort by the fifth-year senior forward to give his closest family members the chance, virtually, to be present for Minnesota's upcoming games.

When the Gophers host Iowa in an empty Williams Arena on Christmas night, the good tidings of great joy will have to come from those cardboard faces of parents, siblings and friends strategically placed in prime seats nearest the court.

"That made my heart smile," said Curry's mother, Audrea Phipps. "I feel like every player needs to have cutouts of their families in those stands, and that's for every team across the country. That would so help those kids, to be able to feel like we're there with them."

College basketball teams are accustomed to being busy through the holidays, often absent for family gatherings on Thanksgiving in particular. This pandemic-altered season feels even more isolated with campuses largely cleared out and arena doors closed to fans in many places.

Christmas Day itself is usually reserved for college football and the NBA, but not this year: The Big Ten scheduled four games – Wisconsin at Michigan State, Maryland at Purdue, Michigan at Nebraska and Iowa at Minnesota – on Friday. They are the only college hoops games scheduled.

"We're all not too excited about that. No knock against Nebraska, but Christmas Day, I don't think anyone wants to travel away from their place," said Michigan forward Isaiah Livers. "Although, still, you've got to think about it as being grateful and being blessed and having an opportunity to be on the court. Because the season could have not happened. I see what they were thinking. They were trying to schedule games."

Normally, family members would make an event of it and see their sons play in person, but state restrictions and conference protocols aimed at stopping the virus spread have prevented so many of these visits. Instead of traveling to Minnesota, Curry's mother, sister and grandmother will watch from their home in Little Rock, Arkansas.

"He knows I'm always watching, but it's different when you're there in person," Phipps said. "They may be adult-like and have grown-men bodies and all that, but they're still kids, honestly. Eric, today, if something goes wrong, he's still going to call me because I need to fix it for him."

Programs across the country have attempted to ramp up mental health support at a time when the potential for anxiety or loneliness has spiked for players along with everyone else. There is extra stress, too, each time they arrive for a COVID-19 test, realizing a positive result will force them out of action and away from their surrogate family.

"The emotional and mental fatigue and exhaustion and trauma, even though that may not be the appropriate word, it's much more real than you imagine," Texas A&M coach Buzz Williams said.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski was so concerned earlier this month that he canceled two nonconference games so team members could be home for Christmas.

"They want to go to a football game, and they want to hang out with the regular students. They have none of that," Rutgers coach Steve Pikiell said. "So their normal has completely changed, except for when they get in the gym."

Michigan State players, who ate their Thanksgiving meal while on a Zoom call with their families to keep spirits up on the holiday, had a recruiting room at the Breslin Center temporarily transformed into an arcade and lounge so they could hang out somewhere beside their apartments.

"Forty years ago, I don't know if I could have done what they're doing," coach Tom Izzo said.

Minnesota coach Richard Pitino recently described the vibe akin to the team being on a 15-hour bus trip, only able to see each other.

"We at least get to go home to our families, but these guys are very, very isolated, and it is a huge challenge from a mental health standpoint," Pitino said.

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Your next stimulus check may not be in the mail until Jan. 15

Michelle Singletary

The $900 billion pandemic-relief bill Congress passed Monday night provides a second stimulus payment of up to $600 to individuals earning $75,000 or less and up to $1,200 for couples filing jointly earning $150,000 or less. Families are also eligible for $600 per dependent child under 17.

But, based on glitches from the last distribution of stimulus payments, I need to manage your expectations – and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin should have done that, too.

"People are going to begin seeing this money next week," Mnuchin said during a CNBC interview Monday.

This sets up the IRS for a herculean task.

The already-beleaguered agency is still trying to address backlogs from coronavirus shutdowns that sent its staff home. There are 2019 tax tax returns and refunds to process from the delayed 2020 tax season, which shifted its deadline to July 15 this year.

Dale Raby, 64, of Rockland, Wisconsin, is caring for his severely autistic 24-year-old son. He received his $1,200 stimulus payment under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or Cares Act, which passed in March, but he's still waiting on a refund from his 2019 federal return, which he said he filed electronically in February.

"It's very frustrating," he said. "The IRS is sitting on more than $4,000 of money I could really use about now. You call and wait for hours, and when you finally get somebody, they say, 'We are way behind.'"

Payments for this second round of stimulus aid are based on people's 2019 return.

Under the Cares Act, the Treasury Department has until Dec. 31 to finish issuing the first economic-impact payments.

It's possible people will see the second stimulus payment by direct deposit by year's end, but the reality is many others probably won't get any money before mid-January or even later next year. This all has to happen, I might add, while the IRS is preparing for the 2021 tax season, which is already going to be a hot mess because of the pandemic.

The relief bill says the Treasury Department has until Jan. 15 to get out the $600 payments. If payments can't be direct-deposited or mailed by then, people will have to wait to get their money when they file their 2020 tax return next year. Even those who file just as the tax season opens may not see a payment until February. If you file your return electronically and elect direct deposit, it can still take about three weeks to get a refund.

The first stimulus rollout had some major glitches. Deceased people got checks. Foreign nationals received stimulus money even though they were not living or working in the United States. People in prison who received stimulus payments were told to send the money back to the IRS. Then a lawsuit filed against the IRS and Treasury Department reversed that policy decision, so payments to incarcerated individuals had to be reissued. By the way, the most recent bill does not exclude prison inmates from receiving stimulus payments.

The IRS lost stimulus payment information for hundreds of thousands of low-income Americans. Parents receiving certain government benefits – such as Supplemental Security Income – didn't get the $500 payments for their eligible children, prompting another lawsuit. As a result, the IRS set and extended and then pushed out again deadlines for these parents and others to get their stimulus money.

The Treasury Department mailed prepaid debit cards to millions of Americans. But many people thought the cards were a scam and threw them away, prompting the department to send a letter that the debit card was in fact not fake.

This brings me to the optimistic proclamation from Mnuchin that the $600 payments would go out as soon as next week.

The IRS has worked out a lot of the glitches troubling the first stimulus distribution, said Garrett Watson, a senior policy analyst at the Tax Foundation, which has a good summary of the new aid package.

"Yet, I think it's always good to set reasonable expectations," Watson said. "It's better to underpromise and overdeliver when it comes to delivering these payments."

The IRS could not address many questions, because the legislation had not been signed into law by President Donald Trump – who on Tuesday night demanded larger stimulus checks in the bill and criticized it for "wasteful spending." At this point, it's best to check irs.gov for updates. Search for "Economic Impact Payment Information Center."

My holiday hope is that the IRS and Treasury Department post answers to the questions I know people will have, as soon as possible. The administration was too slow to do this after the passage of the Cares Act. The need is as great, if not greater, this time around to provide people struggling to make ends meet a realistic time frame for when they may see the second stimulus payment.

Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071.

Ask the Fool

The Treasury, Explained

Q I see that Janet Yellen is expected to become the next secretary of the Treasury. What does that job entail? — *R.Y., online*

A If Yellen is confirmed by the Senate, she'll be the first woman in the job since it was created in 1789. (Alexander Hamilton was the first secretary.)

Yellen will oversee the Department of the Treasury, which encompasses many bureaus and is charged with many tasks. These include collecting taxes; paying government bills; overseeing currency and coins; managing government accounts and the public debt; supervising national banks and thrifts; and advising on domestic and international financial, monetary, economic, trade and tax policy. Its bureaus include the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (bills) and the U.S. Mint (coins), and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

***

Q Are cannabis-focused exchange-traded funds (ETFs) good investments? — *B.V., Kailua, Hawaii*

A You should do your own research into the growing medical and recreational marijuana industries to see whether you think their futures look rosy or bleak.

If you end up bullish on cannabis-focused companies, then ETFs are a good option. Like mutual funds, each will distribute your investment across a bunch of companies in or related to the industry, such as marijuana cultivators, owners of dispensary real estate, retailers, growing equipment providers and more.

There are many such ETFs to choose from, though most are fairly new and small; see which ones best match your interests and charge the lowest fees. Here are a few (with some amusing ticker symbols): MG Alternative Harvest ETF (MJ), Cambria Cannabis ETF (TOKE), Global X Cannabis ETF (POTX) and AdvisorShares Pure Cannabis ETF (YOLO).

Don't put all your eggs in the cannabis basket, though — or any other single basket.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.

The Motley Fool

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Fool's School

How To Save for Retirement

There are many retirement accounts available to most of us, so don't just settle for one without learning about others. Here's an overview.

IRA accounts can be opened at many financial companies and brokerages, and they come in two main varieties: the traditional IRA and the Roth IRA. You can contribute up to $6,000, total, to one or more IRAs for 2020, plus an extra $1,000 if you're 50 or older. (These limits often change from year to year, but are remaining the same in 2021.) The IRA contribution deadline for 2020 is April 15, 2021.

Traditional IRAs offer an upfront tax break, shrinking your taxable income by the amount of your contribution. In retirement, withdrawals are taxed at your income tax rate. Roth IRA contributions offer no upfront tax break, but if you follow the rules, withdrawals in retirement will be tax-free. That can be a big deal if you've amassed a large sum over many years.

There's a good chance your employer offers a 401(k) plan. There are traditional and Roth versions of 401(k) accounts, too. The contribution limit for 401(k)s in 2020 (and 2021) is $19,500, plus another $6,500 for those 50 and older.

IRAs generally give you a lot of freedom in allocating your money: You can invest in any of thousands of stocks, mutual funds and other securities. A 401(k) account is typically more restrictive, offering a set menu of certain funds and other investments. But unlike IRAs, 401(k) plans frequently offer matching contributions from your employer. That's free money, so it's smart to contribute at least enough to max out any available match.

You needn't use only one of all these options. You might have a 401(k) account through your job, and a Roth IRA as well. Depending on how good your 401(k) is, you might focus much of your saving and investing there, or you might just contribute enough to max out the match and then save in IRAs until you max those out.

You can research 401(k)s at **BrightScope.com**, and learn more about retirement planning at **Fool.com**.

My Dumbest Investment

Shoulda Woulda Coulda

My dumbest investment happened when I left a job at Apple in December 1997. At the time, I had options to buy 12,000 shares. I didn't buy a single share. Instead, I sold the options and bought a case of beer with the results. I should have stayed at Apple. — *R., online*

The Fool Responds: Ouch! Apple's stock has split four times since 1997, which would have turned 12,000 shares into 24,000 shares, then 48,000, then 336,000, and then 1,344,000 shares. (Note that the value of shares at the time of a split is reduced proportionately, so the splits themselves don't make a stock's value skyrocket.)

If you had bought 12,000 shares (for around $1,440) and hung on to them, you'd have 1.344 million shares, and with the stock recently trading around $126 per share, that would be worth more than $169 million! Of course, a glorious future wasn't clearly in the cards for Apple in 1997: The iMac debuted in 1998, and the iPod in 2001; the iPhone was launched in 2007.

Even if you'd bought all 12,000 shares, at some point they'd have come to dominate your portfolio, and it would have been sensible to sell some shares, lest you keep too many eggs in that one basket. Apple's rise wasn't uninterrupted, either: Shares plunged by more than 50% in 2008, and by almost 40% in 2018.

The Motley Fool Take

Vaccines ... and More

Pfizer's (NYSE: PFE) COVID-19 vaccine candidate, which it developed with BioNTech, has shown 95% efficacy — so it may come as a surprise that as of this writing, Pfizer's stock is up less than 2%, year over year, while the S&P 500 is up nearly 16%. That's an opportunity.

Although the vaccine would likely generate billions of dollars in revenue, Pfizer is a company that reported $51.8 billion in revenue last year and $16.3 billion in profit. Clearly, it has a lot of other things going on.

Its growth drivers include Vyndaqel, which is approved for treating the rare genetic disease transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy, and blood thinner Eliquis. Pfizer is also awaiting regulatory approval decisions for several treatments, such as abrocitinib for atopic dermatitis and tanezumab for osteoarthritic pain. Pfizer's pipeline also includes 21 treatments in late-stage clinical trials.

Meanwhile, Pfizer has spun off its Upjohn business to form a new company with Mylan, called Viatris. Pfizer will receive a nice $12 billion cash windfall from the deal, which could be used for growth-fueling acquisitions.

Pfizer pays its shareholders a dividend that recently yielded 4.1%, and it has been boosting dividend payments by an annual average of 5.4% over the past five years.

The company is poised to deliver solid growth over the years to come, along with dependable income, so long-term investors should give it a closer look.

Name That Company

I trace my roots back to the 1929 founding of a mothproofing company by a former minor league baseball player. I grew into the ServiceMaster company, offering many services to homes and businesses, and added a big pest-control brand in 1986. In 2020, though, I sold off my ServiceMaster Brands, including AmeriSpec (home inspections), Furniture Medic (cabinet and furniture repair), Merry Maids (residential cleaning), ServiceMaster Clean and ServiceMaster Restore. I kept my pest-control business, though, and took its name as my own. Based in Memphis, Tennessee, I employ more than 10,000 people and serve 2.8 million customers. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to a "stationery and fancy goods" store opened on Broadway in New York City in 1837. By 1870, I was a top American silversmith and seller of jewels and timepieces; in 1878, I bought a 287-carat diamond, cutting it to just 129 carats. My customers have included Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Franklin D, Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. I boast a market value recently near $16 billion, and LVMH is planning to acquire me. I'm known for a specific color. People visit me looking for jewelry and beautiful things – or maybe a morning meal. Who am I? (Answer: Tiffany & Co.)

Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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RV-buying mistakes to avoid

Liz Weston

Recreational vehicle sales are soaring, and the RV industry expects 2021 to be a record-breaking year. Dealerships say much of the demand is coming from first-time buyers and others anxious to find a safer way to vacation during the pandemic.

As any RV owner will tell you, though, buying a motorhome, camper or trailer is a complex process that requires a ton of decisions. The more choices you make, the more opportunities you have to make mistakes, especially when you're a novice.

We had some great family camping experiences in the motorhome we owned from 2011 to 2017, and we learned a lot. If you're considering your first RV, these are some of the errors to avoid.

Mistake No. 1: Assuming you'll save a lot of money on travel

If you want to make a motorhome owner laugh, say something silly like, "I bet you save a ton of money on hotels!"

Well, maybe. But new motorhomes typically cost $60,000 to $500,000, according to the RV Industry Association. Add in the cost of gas for a vehicle that gets 6 to 10 mpg, plus insurance, maintenance and the inevitable repairs. Campground fees typically run $25 to $80 a night. You may need to pay for storage if you can't park the rig at your house, since many cities limit the time that RVs can be parked on the street. Storage can cost $30 to $450 a month, depending on whether it's outdoors or indoors, heated or unheated, near a major city or out in the boonies. (We paid $125 a month to store ours outdoors near a favorite campground about 90 minutes from our Los Angeles home.)

Campers and trailers can be more economical – as long as you already own the truck or SUV you need to haul them. Pop-up trailers and truck campers start at around $6,000, according to the RVIA. Travel trailers usually range from $6,000 to $55,000, while fifth-wheel trailers range from $18,000 to $160,000.

If you need a loan, you may wind up paying a lot of interest over time because RV loans often stretch for 10, 15 or even 20 years. Borrowing $40,000 for 15 years will cost you nearly $19,000 in interest, even at a reasonable rate (for RV loans) of 5.5%.

Add it all up, you could spend a lot of time in some pretty nice hotels for what you'll pay camping in an RV.

There are definitely ways to spend less. If you're shelling out for a new rig, though, don't kid yourself that you're vacationing on the cheap.

Mistake No. 2: Buying new

As with cars, RVs lose a considerable amount of value the second they're driven off the dealership lot. Letting the first owner take that big depreciation hit can save you a lot of money.

For example, RV Trader – one of the biggest RV marketplaces – recently advertised a 2021 Winnebago Navion 24D for sale in California with a list price close to $160,000. The 2019 version, with just 5,200 miles, was listed for $120,000.

We spent a lot less, about $16,000, buying a 13-year-old motorhome with less than 8,000 miles on the odometer. We spent $7,000 on maintenance and repairs over six years, plus $1,200 to replace its six tires.

You may worry that a used RV will be a money pit, and that could be true. But unlike cars, RVs often aren't trouble-free even when they're new. There may be leaks, rattles and manufacturing defects. The first owner may spot and fix the worst problems before passing the RV on to you. (You'll still want a seasoned mechanic at a good dealership to inspect any used rig before buying.)

This leads me to another tip: Spend some time researching dealerships and their service departments, because some are notorious for treating customers badly and overcharging on repairs. Check out online reviews and talk to experienced RV owners.

Mistake No. 3: Rushing your purchase

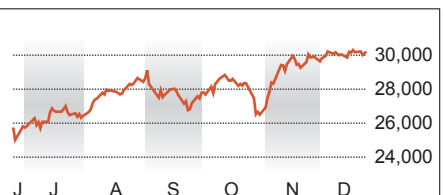
Making a big purchase in haste is rarely a good idea, but you could really regret joining the stampede to buy an RV right now.

Normally, you can negotiate a discount of 20 percent or more off a new RV's sticker price. But the pandemic slowed production at factories just as demand surged over travel safety concerns. The result is a seller's market with limited inventories at dealerships. That means a lot less wiggle room on prices for new and used rigs. A year or two of high demand is often followed by a lull, though, so consider renting an RV now and buying after things calm down.

Renting first is a good idea in any case, because it gives you a chance to try different types of RVs and to see if this kind of camping is for you. (We ultimately decided we preferred national park lodges and nice hotels.) Sites including Outdoorsy, RVShare.com and Cruise America offer a wide variety of rental options, with motorhome prices typically starting around $100 a night.

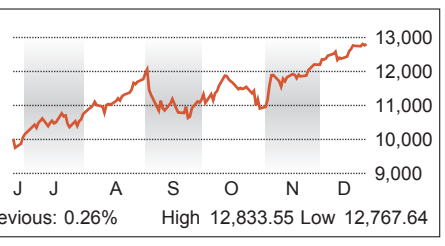
MARKETS

Dec. 24, 2020
Dow Jones industrials
70.04
30,199.87



Pct. change from previous: 0.23% High 30,209.67 Low 30,099.30

Dec. 24, 2020
Nasdaq composite
33.62
12,804.73



Pct. change from previous: 0.26% High 12,833.55 Low 12,767.64

Amer Elec Power AEP
$81.42 **+.71 +.9%**
▼ **4-wk.** -4.6% ▼ **YTD** -13.9%

Whirlpool WHR
$193.20 **+3.65 +1.9%**
▼ **4-wk.** -3.5% ▲ **YTD** +31.0%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	◇CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	39.55	28.69	-.06	-0.2	▼	▼	▲
AEP	AEP	65.14	104.97	81.42	+.71	+0.9	▼	▼	▼
Apple Inc s	AAPL	53.15	137.98	131.97	+1.01	+0.8	▲	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	684.91	1267.93	1204.22	+11.23	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
BP PLC	BP	14.74	40.08	21.06	-.15	-0.7	▼	▼	▲
CMS Eng	CMS	46.03	69.12	58.16	+.55	+1.0	▼	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	36.27	60.07	53.44	+.36	+0.7	▼	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	31.71	52.49	50.38	+.35	+0.7	▼	▼	▲
Deere	DE	106.14	272.00	269.21	+1.27	+0.5	▼	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	79.07	179.45	173.73	+.18	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	114.32	109.03	+1.41	+1.3	▼	▼	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	30.11	71.37	41.60	-.17	-0.4	▼	▲	▲
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	31.23	27.58	-.15	-0.5	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	26.07	52.91	39.89	+.04	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	3.96	9.57	8.86	-.13	-1.4	▼	▼	▲
GenElec	GE	5.48	13.26	10.65	-.21	-1.9	▼	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	140.63	292.95	270.92	+1.11	+0.4	▲	▼	▼
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.42	19.21	15.55	+.07	+0.5	▲	▲	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.82	15.22	12.35	-.10	-0.8	▼	▼	▲
IDEX	IEX	104.56	199.50	196.56	+1.75	+0.9	▼	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	90.56	158.75	124.69	+.79	+0.6	▼	▲	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	141.10	124.52	-.55	-0.4	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	109.16	157.00	152.47	+.53	+0.3	▼	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	60.00	180.67	162.77	+.34	+0.2	▼	▲	▼
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	231.91	211.39	-.63	-0.3	▼	▼	▼
Microsoft	MSFT	132.52	232.86	222.75	+1.73	+0.8	▲	▲	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	43.83	34.58	+.60	+1.8	▼	▼	▲
Perrigo	PRGO	40.01	63.86	44.01	+.35	+0.8	▼	▼	▼
Pfizer	PFE	27.88	43.08	37.27	-.17	-0.5	▼	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	94.34	146.92	137.72	+1.38	+1.0	▼	▼	▼
RepubSvc	RSG	65.37	103.79	95.63	+.62	+0.7	▼	▼	▲
Steelcse	SCS	7.02	21.70	13.49	+.52	+4.0	▼	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	124.54	242.51	237.06	+.73	+0.3	▼	▲	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	47.46	36.21	-.34	-0.9	▼	▲	▲
Target	TGT	90.17	181.17	175.19	+.28	+0.2	▲	▼	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	157.07	146.88	-.02	...	▼	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	82.00	178.01	172.19	-.45	-0.3	▼	▲	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	48.84	62.15	58.84	-.12	-0.2	▼	▼	▼
WEC Engy	WEC	68.01	109.53	89.43	+.75	+0.8	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	102.00	153.66	143.50	+.28	+0.2	▼	▼	▲
WalgBoots	WBA	33.36	59.78	39.62	-.25	-0.6	▼	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.91	22.45	+.22	+1.0	▼	▲	▲
Whrlpl	WHR	64.00	207.30	193.20	+3.65	+1.9	▲	▼	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	56.43	50.82	+.98	+2.0	▲	▼	▲
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	123.59	119.14	+.84	+0.7	▬	▲	▲

U.S. plants hope to maintain production despite virus threat

By JOSH FUNK and TOM KRISHER
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — U.S. factories have been cranking out goods during much of the pandemic at rates that are remarkably close to normal. However, manufacturers are concerned they may not be able to keep pace until most of the country is vaccinated because the coronavirus continues to surge in areas where many plants are based.

Safeguards that were put in place after the initial wave of the virus appear to have prevented the large outbreaks that sickened hundreds of workers and forced automakers, meat processors and other businesses to halt production last spring. But with the nation's COVID-19 death toll eclipsing 300,000 and the virus spiking in communities that surround the plants, industry and union officials say it may be impossible to keep the virus out of factories.

"We are seeing an increase in the number of positive (test) rates like you're seeing in the surrounding communities," said Gary Johnson, chief manufacturing officer at Ford Motor Co., which has about 56,000 hourly factory workers nationwide.

Federal Reserve statistics show that U.S. industrial output is about 5 percent below levels in February, before the pandemic hit. It fell by 16.5 percent between February and April but has rebounded since, led by auto manufacturing.

Beef and pork production have both been running just below last year's levels, Iowa State University agricultural economist Lee Schulz said.

But as it will be months before many people will be able to get vaccinated, factories will remain vulnerable.

"Even though we are doing OK now, this virus can spread rapidly in areas," said Mark Lauritsen, director of the food processing and meatpacking division for the United Food and Commercial Workers International union. "I worry every day that this virus will explode in one of our plants again, even with all the precautions that we've taken."

At auto plants and factories in other industries where the United Auto Workers union represents workers, cases have risen slightly since around Halloween, but nearly all have been traced to outside of the plants, said UAW President Rory Gamble.

Since reopening in May after an eight-week shutdown, three workers from Fiat Chrysler factories near Detroit have died from the virus, raising fear among thousands of workers.

Gamble said much of the fear has come from misinformation about workers catching the virus in factories, which is not true.

"They need to have a complete understanding that we're doing everything we can to keep them safe," Gamble said. "Because they have a right to be afraid."

PRODUCE PRICES

The following fruit prices were recorded on the Chicago Terminal Market on Wednesday. Prices are not net to the growers as freight and selling fees have not been deducted. These prices were provided by the USDA Market News Branch office in Chicago.

APPLES: Cartons tray pack of Washington Extra Fancy 72s Red Delicious of fine appearance sold from mostly $29-30, Golden Delicious fine appearance fruit sold from mostly $39-40, Fuji brought $32-33, Pink Lady sold from $40, Gala sold steady from $35-36 with fine appearance offerings from $39-42, and 72 size Honeycrisp sold for $35-36 with fine appearance $54. Cartons of 12 3-pound film bags of Washington WA Extra Fancy 2 1/2-inch minimum Red Delicious sold for $28, while Golden Delicious sold for $26-27, Fuji sold for $22 and Gala brought $30, while bushel cartons of 3-inch up Michigan Gala, Golden Delicious and Jonagold sold for $20.

ASPARAGUS: 11-pound cartons/crates bunched from Peru standard size sold lower from mostly $21.50-23, while white large offerings sold for mostly $28.50.

BEANS: Bushel cartons/crates of round green type machine-picked offerings from Florida sold higher from $32.

BERRIES: Flats of 12 1-pint cups with lids of medium-large size blueberries from Peru sold slightly lower from $22, with fine appearance offerings from Mexico sold lower for $30. No organic offerings. Strawberries in flats of 12 1-pound containers medium-large size from Florida and California sold for mostly $18-20. No organic offerings.

BROCCOLI: Cartons of 14 bunches from California sold lower from mostly $18-20, with organic offerings $26-26.50.

CABBAGE: 50-pound cartons of round green medium from Georgia sold lower from mostly $14-15, with offerings from Texas $16 and red offerings $29.

CAULIFLOWER: Cartons of 12 film wrapped heads from California sold higher for $40-42, with organic offerings $38.50.

CORN: Wirebound crates of four dozen Florida bi-color sold higher for $46, with yellow offerings $39.

CRANBERRIES: Cartons of 24 12-ounce packages of offerings from Wisconsin sold from mostly $31-32.

CUCUMBERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons from Mexico of medium size sold higher for $25-26, while select offerings brought $22 and large sold higher for $24-26, while carton 24s sold higher for mostly $11-12. Pickles of 200-300 size from Texas sold higher for $36.

EGGPLANT: 1 1/9-bushel cartons of medium size from Florida sold steady for mostly $15-16, with 24 count Mexico offerings brought $15-16.

LETTUCE: Cartons film wrapped 24 heads of iceberg lettuce from California sold lower for mostly $20-23.50, with organic offerings $36.50.

ORANGES: Cartons of 10 4-pound film bags of California 72 size valencia juice oranges sold steady for mostly $28-29.

PEPPERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of Florida green extra-large sold for mostly $19-20, with large $18, while choppers from Florida brought $16. Medium-large size cubanelle peppers from Florida sold for $32, with North Carolina offerings of medium-large hungarian wax peppers sold for $18, extra-large serranos sold for mostly $26-29, long hots brought $20-22 and medium poblanos from Mexico brought $16-18 while extra-large size jalapenos sold for mostly $17-19.

SQUASH: 4/7-bushel cartons of small-medium zucchini from Mexico sold for $12-13, with medium lower for mostly $10-11, while yellow straightneck small-medium sold lower for $16 with mediums $16. 40-pound cartons of large size butternut from Michigan sold for $19-20, Mexico offerings of acorn from $19-20 and spaghetti $20.

TOMATOES: 25-pound cartons loose vine-ripe offerings from Florida of 5x6 size sold higher for $30, and mature green offerings sold for $24, while cartons 2-layer offerings of vine ripes from Mexico of 4x5 size sold for higher $28. Cartons of 12 1-pint baskets of cherry type light red-red medium size from Mexico sold for $18, while grape type sold from $24. Plum tomatoes packed in 25-pound cartons loose of extra-large size from Mexico sold higher from $28-30.

Crowdfunding Dos and Don'ts for small businesses

Securing startup funding can be a barrier for entrepreneurs trying to get a new business off the ground.

For many owners, the idea of asking a bank or single lender for thousands or even millions of dollars adds an entirely new layer of stress on top of the already overwhelming task of launching a business. It's also not an easy process. Proving to a lender that your idea is worth his or her investment is rarely an easy sell.

For all of these reasons, more and more entrepreneurs in recent years have shifted from traditional funding to crowdfunding to get the money they need to bring their product or service to market.

Crowdfunding has changed the rules of startup financing and opened up a new pool of capital for entrepreneurs.

Crowdfunding has shifted startup fundraising from a single lender model to a collective virtual effort, giving a startup financial support while instantly introducing the business to potential customers.

According to SCORE mentor and Portland Maine business attorney Chris Dargie, crowdfunding has rapidly become an accepted way to raise capital for small businesses.

"Traditionally, companies raised capital by issuing debt or equity," said Dargie. "Rewards-based crowdfunding introduced a completely new alternative. The model has shown that the public is willing to contribute capital to worthy projects without any expectation of future profit, which is quite revolutionary."

There's a right way and a wrong way to crowdfund.

While crowdfunding is a great way to finance your startup, it's not a silver bullet. According to Dargie, there's a right way to approach this type of funding. Here are his suggested Dos and Don'ts of crowdfunding.

Do:

■ Understand the different types of funding

There are three primary types of crowdfunding, each with different goals and risks.

1. Rewards-based crowdfunding

Asking your backers for capital in return for an incentive.

2. Equity crowdfunding

Giving away equity in exchange for capital.

3. Peer-to-peer lending

Taking on debt that you're legally obligated to pay back.

Before you get started, you need to have a full understanding of the type of funding you're looking for and the amount of risk you're willing to assume.

■ Select the right crowdfunding platform

Don't automatically select the platform you're most familiar with. Each crowdfunding platform is set up to serve a different purpose and audience, so choose the one that fits best with your business type and goal.

Some of the most commonly-used crowdfunding platforms out there include:

1. Kickstarter: The big name in crowdfunding for tech and creative entrepreneurs

2. GoFundMe: The best for personal fundraising

3. Indiegogo: Great for tech startups and community projects

4. Causes: Built for non-profits

5. Patreon: Great for creatives and designers

6. CircleUp: Ideal for equity funding for consumer brands

7. LendingClub: A go-to for business loans

■ Fulfill your obligation to crowdfunding lenders after your launch

As crowdfunding has grown as a serious startup funding option, so has the attention of government consumer protection bureaus towards these platforms. Deceptive crowdfunding campaigns are quickly shut down and fined. Know the rules and play by them so you don't find yourself fighting a legal battle while trying to get your business off the ground.

Don't:

■ Fail to manage expectations

Delays in business are inevitable, especially for a startup. When you're promising a product by a certain timeframe during a crowdfunding campaign, don't overpromise. Manage the expectations of your backers by keeping them in the loop as your business progresses and set realistic timelines along the way.

■ Launch a crowdfunding campaign before you've formed an entity

You need to legally form your business entity before you begin your crowdfunding campaign.

Dargie added, "You don't want to be left holding the bag personally if your business has spent all the money on development and has nothing to show for it at the end, and the backers want their money back."

■ Forget to pay taxes on funds raised

Rewards-based campaigns bring in cash typically viewed by the IRS as taxable business income. For this reason, Dargie advises businesses to consult with their tax advisors before beginning any crowdfunding campaign so you know you're covered before you begin.

Crowdfunding is a great way for entrepreneurs to get their businesses launched fast without relying on a bank or single lender. Like any means of fundraising, though, it comes with its own risks and hurdles. Do your research and consult other professionals who have been through the process, like a SCORE mentor.

A SCORE mentor will work with you to start the crowdfunding campaign, find a financial advisor who can support you, and help you put the funds to work immediately to launch your business. Reach the local SCORE office at www.swmi.score.org, or 269-344-1419.

SCORE™

This column is provided by SCORE, an organization dedicated to helping small businesses start, grow and succeed. The local SCORE chapter provide free and confidential mentoring in management, accounting, marketing and business plan preparation.

'Unprecedented' mail volume delays Christmas gifts

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN RAMON, Calif. — Some who mailed holiday presents weeks early this year found they didn't act early enough as Christmas arrived with their gifts stuck in transit.

The U.S. Postal Service said on its website that it was "experiencing unprecedented volume increases and limited employee availability due to the impacts of COVID-19."

Austin Race of Grand Rapids, Michigan, placed an online order Nov. 30 for a collector's model die-cast of a NASCAR racing car. It hadn't reached his father after the Postal Service passed through his neighborhood Thursday night, even though he was notified Dec. 8 that it was shipped by two-day priority mail.

His gift was in Opa-locka, Florida, the last time he checked the tracking number, about 750 miles south of where he ordered it in Mooresville, North Carolina. Race, 21, resigned himself to telling his father he will have to wait a little longer for his gift.

"I do understand the situation, but it's still kind of frustrating," he said.

Charles Rex Arbogast / AP

A U.S. postal worker delivers packages, boxes and letters on Tuesday along her route in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, just three days before Christmas. Some Christmas gift-givers discovered their presents didn't arrive in time for the holiday despite ordering weeks ahead.

Joanna Goldstein ordered Christmas ornaments online Nov. 17 for her 10-year-old son's soccer coach and her son's friend. She figured it was ample time to arrive from a store about 80 miles from her home in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

All appeared well Dec. 11 when she received a notice from the Postal Service that the ornaments had been received in Columbus, Ohio.

But then the package made a journey through distribution centers in Warrendale, Pennsylvania, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Lansing, Michigan, before apparently getting stuck in Detroit.

On Wednesday, she received another notice that delivery would be later than initially anticipated. Her son was angry but Goldstein is taking it in stride.

"I was frustrated last week thinking, 'C'mon, get here,' but now I am just sort of laughing it off," she said.

She told her son the ornaments will hang on the tree next year and they will have a story to tell about the long journey they took during the pandemic.

hp OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Michigan DNR photo

An autumn trail is pictured from Lake Lansing Park North in Ingham County.

Self-care Saturday is a walk in the park

By RACHEL COALE
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Every Saturday morning since the fall leaves began dropping, I lace up my boots, fill a water bottle and head out the door. Each week, I add another warm layer as the temperatures seem to freefall downward – a jacket, gloves, hat and thick socks.

Arriving at a local park, I reassure myself, "This is good for me," my face reddening in the chilly winter air.

And it is – this small ritual, a dedicated time to be outdoors, has been a touchstone in a time where rapid change, uncertainty and distance from loved ones is a shared experience.

For me, the outdoors has always been a place to seek joy by jumping into lakes, rambling down ravines and finding adventure on a trail – but it's also a place to slow down and get centered.

The buzzwordy idea of "self-care" evokes images of bubble baths, fuzzy slippers and detox drinks. But it can be simpler than that. At its most basic, self-care is a focus on physical and mental health that helps us be our best selves. For many, the outdoors is an essential part of that equation.

"The natural environment can buffer us from impacts of life stresses," Linda E. Kruger of the Forestry Sciences Lab in Juneau, Alaska said in a talk about the importance of natural spaces for public well-being.

Kruger describes the forest as "nature's health service," emphasizing the importance of regularly spending time in the outdoors – even in winter – to physical and psychological health.

Some estimates blame more than 75 percent of primary care physician visits on stress-related problems; a prescription for nature may be a benefit to many. In addition to stress relief, Kruger cites research that suggests spending time in the outdoors reduces the risk of many chronic conditions.

In a study in Japan, anticancer proteins increased in the blood of participants who made short visits to forests for three days.

In many ways, my hikes in the forest or loops around the local park path are a movement meditation that engages the senses and encourages me to focus on being present.

On a trail, my to-do list falls away as I listen to the steady rhythm of my footsteps, smell rich fallen leaves and drink in the rough edges, curves and colors of nature with my eyes.

I once read that nature, for the most part, does not make straight lines, and it has stuck with me since. Outside, I can get away from the rectangles and boxes of indoor life.

The bend of a path, twisted trunk of a tree or ripples on a pond are soothing counters to the glaring blue screens of the phones and computers I'm parked in front of for much of the day.

With shorter days and a loss of light at what I consider the absurd hour of 5 p.m., I've been increasingly seeking local parks to squeeze in some outdoor time between the edge of the workday and sunset.

I love the sprawling wildness of state forests, parks and game areas, but I am also growing an appreciation for smaller green spaces closer to home.

At Fenner Nature Center, a 134-acre park wedged between Michigan State University and downtown Lansing, I enjoy visits to a native prairie, rippling ponds and forested wetlands.

White-tailed deer, muskrats and pileated woodpeckers often make appearances as I explore the trails. Surrounded by swaying trees and birdsong, it's easy to forget that traffic lights and lattes are just minutes away.

"Thankfully, the outdoors have remained 'open' for all and will continue to provide opportunities for people to 'get out and do something' while so many of our favorite activities and venues are canceled or closed," said Michigan Department of Natural Resources Marketing and Outreach Division Chief Kristin Phillips. "We are blessed in Michigan to have millions of acres of forests, thousands of miles of trails and rivers, hundreds of parks and green spaces that provide a vast amount of options – socially distant and close to home."

Looking for a new place to get outside? Visit the Your Local Outdoors interactive map to find DNR-managed parks, trails and hunting areas close by, and visit your city, township or county's webpages to find local parks.

This weekend, I'm looking forward to a self-care routine that will involve a hike on a new-to-me trail, a mug of hot cocoa and time spent birdwatching. But I'm not ruling out a bubble bath, either.

Watervliet Rod & Gun Club

CPL classes: The Watervliet Rod and Gun Club is offering concealed pistol license classes.

February: Register from 6-7 p.m. Feb. 2. Classes are from 6-10 p.m. Feb. 4 and from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Feb. 6. For more information, call 470-9191 or 468-3837.

Sarett Nature Center

Annual Audubon Christmas bird count: 8 a.m. Dec. 31. Volunteers are needed to count birds for this event. Call 927-4832 to register.

Areas will be divided up so small groups can cover an area in a reasonable amount of time.

Submit information for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com, fax to 429-4392 or call 429-1294 by Wednesday.

Northern Michigan lakes bloom with algae in 2020

By JORDAN TRAVIS
Traverse City Record-Eagle

Jan-Michael Stump / Traverse City Record-Eagle

A walker passes between North Bar Lake, front, and Lake Michigan near Empire on Dec. 4 in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

EMPIRE — Early morning dips in North Bar Lake have a profound meaning for Becky Willis.

"It's a whole lot more than just swimming, it's kind of a cleansing," she said.

That daily ritual continued until signs popped up along the little lake's shoreline during the past summer warning of cyanobacteria blooms that could sicken swimmers and harm pets. The first makeshift postings around the lake just north of the town where Willis coowns an art gallery didn't stop her, but more detailed warning signs with pictures of what to watch for did.

"I looked at a lot of the pictures and it was like, 'Oh yeah, I swam in that,'" she told the T raverse City Record-Eagle.

So Willis started swimming in Lake Michigan, although the big lake's chilly water was too much late in the summer when North Bar Lake normally would be more inviting. She had to cut her swimming season short.

"Usually with North Bar I can almost make it into October, the beginning of October, but not this year," she said.

Lake water at the popular tourist spot still was fouled by a type of bloom that has become more common in northern Michigan lakes, and later into the year, according to state Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and local health officials. Climate change could be exacerbating the problems by heating up inland lakes for longer stretches over summer into early fall.

Cyanobacteria blooms are more than just soupy, unsightly messes in lakes. The organism, sometimes called blue-green algae, can produce neurotoxins that cause health problems ranging from itchy skin, runny eyes, asthma-like symptoms, gastrointestinal problems and even death in humans, and problems with pets as well.

That's according to a release from District Health Department No. 10, which in November investigated a bloom in Ryerson Lake near Fremont after the state Department of Health and Human Services received a report.

"I'd say over the last 10 years, and certainly over the last three to four years, we've been getting a lot more algae blooms, it is becoming more common," said department Environmental Health Director Tom Reichard.

There were no reports to the district health department of people or pets having health problems after exposure, from the recent or other blooms within the department's 10-county area, Reichard said. But the timing at Ryerson Lake was unusual, as the last blooms of the season typically are in the first week of October.

"It is probably more than likely related to the fact that we've had a pretty mild winter so far," he said.

Exposure symptoms in people tend to be mild, while dogs may have seizures or die, Reichard said. That's why the health department typically posts warnings on impacted lakes for summer blooms – no notices were posted at Ryerson Lake, both because the bloom was short-lived and because the water was cold enough to mostly keep people away.

Willis said she had mild stomach issues before she stopped swimming in North Bar Lake, but added there's no way of knowing if the water was the cause. She typically would shower after swimming there and others have told her they avoid it over "swimmer's itch" concerns.

This is the second year in a row cyanobacteria has appeared on several popular northern Michigan lakes, including Au Sable, Black and Cadillac. And for the first time, a bloom was confirmed on Portage Lake in Houghton County – it's the fourth in the Upper Peninsula in the past three years.

According to data from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, there has been an increase in the number of confirmed cyanobacteria blooms in the state. Aaron Parker, an aquatic biologist with the agency, said more publicity for the blooms has led to a greater number of people reporting them, so that could play a role in the increased number. But he doesn't think that's the only thing going on.

The largest, most notable blooms of blue-green algae in recent years occurred in Lake Erie, and have repeatedly threatened Toledo, Ohio's municipal water supply. During a particularly bad bloom in 2014, the city was forced to shut down it's pumps which draw water from the lake to serve about 400,000 people.

Scientists expect a warming climate to increase cyanobacteria blooms in number and severity. That means they are likely to show up more frequently at higher latitudes. At present, they still mostly occur in the southern part of the state.

But Parker confirmed that he's seeing more of them up north.

"Every year," he said.

He said fall blooms in particular are driven in part by seasonal lake mixing that spreads nutrients throughout the water column, but are dependent on warm spells.

"You'll get these bright, sunny, 70 degree days beating down on this nutrient rich water," he said. "And then you'll just get these ephemeral blooms. They might last a day or two, and then temperatures drop off again, and then they disappear just as fast."

However, a warmer climate isn't the only thing worsening the blooms. Parker said the biggest contributing factor to cyanobacteria blooms is excess nutrient input into lakes.

According to Reichard, septic systems for lakeside homes can be directly feeding the cyanobacteria if sewage is seeping into the surface water.

That could be compounded by people spending more time at lake homes during the pandemic.

He recommended lake home owners have their septic tanks pumped out at least every other year, and regularly inspected.

Shoreline owners should also leave a strip of unmowed vegetation along the lakeshore, to help keep nutrients from running off into the water.

Parker notes that the spread of invasive zebra mussels bolster blooms, too. Their presence in a lake is a competitive advantage for cyanobacteria. The mussels tend to consume other microorganisms.

"Now you'll have this disproportionate population of cyanobacteria that can just take off because they have no other competition now from diatoms or green algae for any resources," Parker said.

No cyanotoxins were found in Grand Traverse County's Long Lake after a bloom prompted testing in October, said county health department Environmental Health Director Dan Thorrel. The county's lakes have largely been bloom-free in recent years, while those in neighboring counties have not, including Leelanau County, he said.

Testing on Aug. 7 confirmed reports of a cyanobacteria bloom in North Bar Lake, said Julie Christian, lead biologist for the National Parks Service at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The bloom moved around the lake and persisted as late as October, and NPS warned people of the risks.

"We posted signs around the perimeter of the area where people are most likely to get in the water to warn them of the signs," she said, adding the bloom wasn't consistent enough to merit closing the lake to swimming altogether.

Past anecdotes suggest it's not the first bloom in North Bar Lake in the past decade but it's the first documented, Christian said. And volunteer scientists looking for invasive species in Sleeping Bear Dunes' other inland lakes haven't reported cyanobacteria either.

But these blooms are showing up in other national parks, including Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore's inland lakes, so Christian and others with NPS are trying to better understand what's behind these outbreaks, she said.

North Bar Lake doesn't have the shoreline development that could cause nutrient buildup behind other blooms, but it does have invasive quagga mussels, which have their own way of giving the cyanobacteria an advantage, Christian said. She suspects they are filter feeding, then excreting phosphorus.

"Basically the mussels are putting out a whole bunch of fertilizer, and anything that likes the fertilizer is going to grow more robustly, including the bacteria," she said.

Tests showed that cyanobacteria blooms often coincided with times when the lake's outlet into Lake Michigan was blocked, Christian said.

That happened frequently during 2020, especially in the fall, and could cause nutrients – and cyanotoxins – to build up in the lakewater.

Christian said she hopes to keep studying North Bar Lake, especially its water temperatures, to learn more about what's behind the blooms. Meanwhile, visitors need to look out for blue-green, soupy water or a layer on the surface (Thorrel said it looks more like paint than the fibrous masses algae can form).

Willis is hoping that the blooms don't return to North Bar Lake in 2021 so she can resume her summer morning swims.

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January marks new beginnings, but keep celebrating the little things

Alexandra Newman
Let's Celebrate

January always marks a new beginning, and in 2021 we need it.

Last December, I resolved to harness youthful enthusiasm and celebrate all the little things in 2020. Who knew I'd be forced to do it for my mental health.

I think going into 2020 with that mindset helped get me through the roughness of the year.

So while it's a new beginning, I'm resolving again in 2021 to always look on the bright side and always celebrate my accomplishments. Even in the bad, we can chisel out some good.

You might want to start the year with a bloody mary on Jan. 1. I shared with you last year that Jan. 1 is National Hangover Day, but it's also National Bloody Mary Day to get rid of said hangover. I've never been a fan of tomato juice, so it's just not my thing, but I won't stop you from indulging.

If you're looking for something to cook or get for dinner on Jan. 6, might I suggest beans. The day is National Bean Day.

Jan. 8 is the perfect day to take a soak in the tub. It's National Bubble Bath Day. The holiday has been around since 1999, and encourages everyone to enjoy the relaxation and health benefits of a warm bubble bath.

To pair with your bathtub experience, try also celebrating National Rubber Ducky Day on Jan. 13.

While the origin of this holiday is not officially known by National Day Calendar, it's assumed it's the birthday of "Sesame Street's" Rubber Duckie. The history of the rubber duck is interesting, and if you have time, I recommend doing some research.

One of the things I hate the most about cold weather is the increase in static electricity, but apparently there's a day to celebrate that, too. The day, Jan. 9, is meant for people to learn about the phenomenon.

See **NEWMAN**, page C2

Adel Hana / AP file photo

A woman walks past a mural encouraging the wearing of face masks on the main road of Nusseirat refugee camp, central Gaza Strip, on Nov. 24.

GET LOST, 2020

Some things to leave behind, with caveats

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

Julio Cortez / AP file photo

A protester carries a U.S. flag upside down as he walks past a burning building in Minneapolis on May 28 during a protest over the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes.

NEW YORK — Zoom, Zoom and Zoom. Masks, masks and masks. Sourdough starter and short-order cooking.

In these "troubled times," in our sweat pants and the isolation we endure "out of an abundance of caution," there isn't much not to be over as 2020 comes to a longed for halt.

With the election behind us, along with its deluge of texts and cries of fake news, the year was a mess of common horrors and inconveniences driven by political divisions, racial injustice and the deadly and persistent pandemic, with chronic language to match.

But not all things 2020 need to be left behind. More white people have realized racism is real and present. Quppies (as in quarantine puppies) and Quittens (the feline equivalent) have enriched millions of lives. Family dinner is back on the table and coronavirus pods have turned friends into family.

Here's a few more things we're over as we lurch into 2021, and a few things we may just remember fondly:

Distance learning

There's no denying that some kids have done OK and others have suffered greatly from school at home, as have their parents. And when the pandemic sputters to an end, all kids will return to their classrooms.

While we wait, let's talk teacher heroes trying to make the most of their worst case scenarios. They've organized drive-by parades and made TikTok dance videos for gym class. They've delivered meals to students and written encouraging chalk messages on doorsteps. They've transformed kitchens into chemistry labs and tutored kids through porch doors.

Thank you.

Streaming explosion

Do those of us who can't or won't march back into movie theaters miss the big screen experience?

Sure. But streaming exploded at just the right time, including first-run films available at home. That means a dizzying array of choices, but also that parents don't have to suffer in the dark through "Trolls World Tour."

It means more couples are cuddling up on the couch and more families are making their own popcorn to sit down together for movie night.

Comcast, the nation's largest cable operator and owner of NBCUniversal, reportedly passed a telling milestone: It now has more streaming subscribers than cable-TV subscribers.

What we're over? Let's work on decent, affordable Wi-Fi for all.

Oh the bread

We made bread. We made bread! WE MADE BREAD!

Yes, we did. And now we're thinking it might be time to stop. As the pandemic brought on baking – and hoarding – madness in March, flour was in short supply for a time, along with yeast.

Some companies reported the biggest spikes in sales were for

See **GOODBYE**, 2020, page C2

Pop culture in 2020, from the bizarre to the sublime

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

And now, for our annual look at the year in pop culture. ... Oh, wait. This was 2020. The year everything stopped cold.

Well, not really. Truth is, people turned to culture of all kinds in 2020 – highbrow and lowbrow – to satisfy varied and sometimes conflicting needs: Distraction, inspiration, consolation, escapism, hope.

And those needs evolved: If we began lockdown in March by addictively binge-watching the darkly bizarre "Tiger King," by early winter we were transfixed by a different sort of animal: the graceful octopod of "My Octopus Teacher," extending her tentacles to make connections that seemed achingly poignant in a time when mere hugs between humans are taboo.

And while live entertainment was tragically curtailed due to the raging pandemic, performers often found their own stages, in endlessly creative ways. A Broadway star serenaded health workers from his apartment window, and ballet dancers performed "Swan Lake" from their bathtubs.

There were Zoom proms, drive-in concerts and a host of cast reunions.

And then there was the TikTok guy on the skateboard. Drinking Ocean Spray from the bottle. Singing Fleetwood Mac. For all of us.

A now, here's a totally selective, appropriately scatterbrained journey through some cultural moments of 2020:

January

The year starts like any other ... as if! At the Golden Globes, Ricky Gervais hosts for the fifth time and seems eager to get home. Michelle Williams speaks passionately of a woman's right to choose, Patricia Arquette about voting, and Joaquin Phoenix about ... something.

Chris Pizzello / AP file photo

Pedestrians look up at a mural by artist Shane Grammer of late actor Chadwick Boseman's character T'Challa from the 2018 film "Black Panther," on Sept. 8 in Los Angeles.

The world mourns the sudden loss of Kobe Bryant, and ponders a royal first when Harry and Meghan step back from their duties. What will it all mean?

February

And the Oscar goes to ... was that *this* year? Yep, it was only months ago that "Parasite" swept the Academy Awards, a historic moment for South Korea and director Bong Joon Ho, clearly adored in Hollywood. (If not by President Donald Trump, who asks supporters at a rally: "What the hell was that all about?")

March

In a landmark moment for the #MeToo movement, Harvey Weinstein is sentenced to 23 years in prison for sex crimes. The once-powerful mogul was led away in handcuffs for what could be the rest of his life.

Days later, the coronavirus shuts down much of life as we know it. Binge-watching reaches new heights. "Tiger King" on Netflix, a story of very big cats and very strange people, becomes the thing everyone can't look away from.

April

Enough weirdness, anybody got some good news? John Krasinski's feel-good web series named, yes, "Some Good News," brings a "Hamilton" cast reunion for a starstruck musical theater fan and a prom for high-school seniors missing theirs, with musical guests like Billie Eilish.

Then there's Lady Gaga's star-studded lineup – try Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones – honoring front-line workers.

A stay-at-home edition of "Saturday Night Live" features newly minted Oscar winner Brad Pitt playing Dr. Anthony Fauci. "He did a

See **POP CULTURE**, page C6

PET OF THE WEEK

Want a new dance partner? Meet Tango. This happy guy would do well in most homes, but bring the whole family to meet him. He appreciates dogs who respect his space, but still wants to be buddies. Tango is 4 or 5 years old and is neutered. To meet him, call Berrien County Animal Control at 927-5648.

VOLUNTEERS

An After School Experience

Youth Development Company/PAL is seeking volunteer tutors for its After School Experience. Volunteers should have a passion for working with children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Those who have an hour to help children with homework, tutor or lend an empathetic ear to someone who maybe had a rough day are encouraged to volunteer.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

United Way of Southwest Michigan

The Herald-Palladium, in conjunction with the United Way of Southwest Michigan, publishes volunteer opportunities every Saturday.

To view all current listings, please visit **volunteer.uwsm.org.**

Help foster families

Foster Closet of Michigan – Berrien County provides free items to foster families and children. The items help rebuild foster children's lives by giving them something to call their own, and it helps relieve some of the financial strain on foster parents.

Volunteers are needed to help open the closet's doors to the public. The closet is open twice a week for two hours.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Blood drive helpers

American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan is looking for blood drive volunteers in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties.

Volunteers will provide a warm, friendly greeting to all donors, instruct and help with registration, explain the importance of blood donations, help schedule appointments, screen blood donors for health concerns, and offer refreshments and conversation.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Health screeners

The Berrien County Health Department needs help as it brings back services.

The department has a health screening upon entry, and needs volunteers to help manage the station at the main entrance of its Benton Harbor office.

The station also provides face masks to those who arrive without one.

This is a no-contact position. Volunteers can maintain social distancing from others and personal protective equipment will be provided.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Feeding America

To make sure fresh, healthy food gets distributed quickly, Feeding America West Michigan developed the mobile food pantry.

Mobile pantries deliver fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products and baked goods to people in need, often on the same day the food is donated.

Volunteers help distribute food, carry heavier groceries for people who need help, and give a smile to those who are experiencing food insecurity.

For upcoming mobile food pantry dates and locations, visit www.feedwm.org.

To volunteer, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Military care

The American Red Cross Hero Care Network provides services to military members, veterans and their families around the world.

The American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan is looking for volunteers to help with tasks such as sending emergency communications for deployed service members, communicating with families of newly enlisted service members, and referring veterans and their families to local programs.

Training will be provided, and volunteers can work remotely.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Health care heroes

PACE of Southwest Michigan is looking for medically trained volunteers to help support their staff and clients as a nurse and nursing assistant.

The nurse will provide care to participants in the PACE Center and in the community. The nursing assistant will perform participant care activities and other tasks as assigned to assist the primary care, therapy and adult day health staff.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

CASA volunteers

A court-appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteer advocates in the community and courtroom for the best interests of foster children in Berrien County.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all work is being conducted remotely, including training.

Volunteers must be at least 21 and pass a background check.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Give. Advocate. Volunteer.

United Way of Southwest Michigan mobilizes the caring power of communities to fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person. Volunteering your time and talent to create lasting solutions that improve life for everyone is an important part in United Way accomplishing this work. Volunteer today and join the fight, by visiting www.uwsm.org.

There's still hope

Minnie Autry
Insights

COVID-19 shattered so many dreams and expectations for 2020. Just as we were getting adjusted to the new year the terrible news of this dread disease made headlines every day.

Where it began, when it arrived, and all the other blame that started in the Garden of Eden surfaced.

Adam and Eve, you may recall, were fooled by the serpent and disobeyed God. When God called for accountability, and asked where they were, Adam said, "I heard you in the garden, and I hid because I was naked."

"Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" God asked.

Immediately Adam said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

Adam blaming Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, and the serpent maintained his silence. But he was complicit in the deception and was punished by slithering on his belly forever. Adam and Eve were put out of the idyllic garden – Adam to work the land and Eve to be fruitful.

I'm not saying disobedience got us to the place we are in, but it sure was misinformation, overlooking facts and science.

COVID-19 was not on our radar, not on the horizon, not something that would shut down countries, churches, government and transportation to a bare minimum. There is still misinformation concerning the virus that continues to hit our country, and well-intentioned business owners want to guard their investments.

They, like homeowners, are trying to hold on in these difficult times. But we need to consider life over death when it comes to making a dollar.

I agree, though, that businesses should be allowed to operate under extreme safe-guards for employees and customers. That's why it's so important for the federal government to help save our economy.

A second relief package had been on the Senate leader's desk since July. Finally, a lesser bill was passed this week that will bring help small businesses and families.

Thank God for scientists who worked around the clock to help create two vaccines that are now approved by the FDA and on the market.

We've now concluded Advent, a time when Christians are excited about the second Advent. As the first Advent brought hope to those centuries ago, this Advent brought with it the needed support across the U.S. to those who are under assault.

It reminds me that God never leaves his people without hope. Sometimes it comes from unexpected places and people, but nevertheless it comes.

It's been a terrible and lonely time for seniors, workers, children, teachers and medical personnel around the world, and we are not out of the woods yet. Therefore, a travel advisory is still warranted and large crowds should be avoided, especially to support those front-line workers and first responders who have seen the up-close effect the virus has had on everyone.

As we come to the close of 2020, COVID may have killed many dreams, but it cannot kill hope. Yes, 12.6 million people are without jobs, more than 320,000 Americans are dead, homeowners have eviction notices, children in poor communities are being left behind. But we still remember the reason for the season. We look forward to the promises and hopes of Jesus Christ.

Even though it may be hard, it may be difficult to be completely thankful for the resources and support that has kept us. Yet, we need to be reminded of those who are in worse shape than we are in.

The coronavirus has stunned us, depleted our energy, and caused families to be separated and comfortless in the time of tragedies, sickness and death. But we can celebrate the true meaning of this season. We celebrate with families, church families and friends with telephone calls, cards, Zoom calls and letters.

Thank God for the Savior, who came to set us free from the sins of the past, the present and the future, and gives us everlasting hope, joy, peace and love.

God bless you all, and I'm praying that we have a wonderfully safe new year.

Today's Insights was written by the Rev. Minnie Autry, pastor at Union Memorial A.M.E. Church. Insights is written by area clergy to give different viewpoints on a variety of topics. It is published each Saturday in cooperation with the Berrien County Association of Churches. The views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views of member churches.

CHURCH NOTES

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2673 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville, will worship in person and via livestream at 4:30 p.m. New Year's Eve. There will not be a Monday night service on Dec. 28.

The Anchor Church of God, 5020 Cleveland Ave., Stevensville, will worship at 7 p.m. New Year's Eve.

St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, 718 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, will worship at 5 p.m. New Year's Eve and 8:30 a.m. New Year's Day.

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, 28 W. Ash St., Three Oaks, will worship at 9 a.m. New Year's Day.

St. Agnes Catholic Church, 5760 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, will worship at 4 p.m. New Year's Eve.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3713 Naomi Road, Sodus, will worship at 6:30 p.m. New Year's Eve in person and via livestream at www.stpaulsodus.com.

Church Notes is a free listing, published each weekend as a public service. Announcements are due by noon Wednesday. Late items will not be published. The editor reserves the right to edit for space and style. Incomplete information may not be published. First and last names should be furnished. Pictures submitted should include names of those shown. Send items to: Church Notes, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; or email to focus@TheHP.com. Items should include a daytime telephone number.

GOODBYE, 2020

From page C1

bread flour. With nothing but time at home for plenty of proving and chilling of dough, many in quarantine tried their hand at bread. And who's the queen? Sourdough, along with her mother.

Talk of sourdough starters spread like a loaf on fire. Boasts of decades-old mothers proliferated. Then the COVID 19 (pounds, not virus) led some to reconsider all that baking.

But, the thing is, we did it!

Carolyn Kaster / AP file photo

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden smiles as he puts on his face mask after speaking to media in Wilmington, Del., on Sept. 4.

The great outdoors

We've hiked. We've walked. We've dined outdoors. As winter descends in cold-weather environs, are we over it or merely bundling up to continue seeking space free of walls?

Add-on value of leaving one's home in a pandemic: Being able to wave at the neighbors without stopping to say hello, because coronavirus, and because we're all introverts now.

The great outdoors has led some to rediscover what's right in front of them: their local parks, their backyards, their decks, their porches. And they've spent some of their newfound time sprucing them up. Work from home office views are now trees and gardens and birds for many.

Outside isn't entirely out of reach for those facing down winter, and for all who are supremely over working from home.

Dump the doomscrolling

We bought new distractions and made long to-do lists. We had big pandemic plans, darn it. Perhaps we've done a thing or two, but the endless time suck of consuming negative news has us prone and fretting much of the time.

Let's free ourselves, people! Halt the endless doomscrolling, especially at night when sleep would be the smarter choice.

Need something to do instead? Take up a collection with neighbors of all that stuff we've hoarded and donate it to a soup kitchen or food pantry. And guess what, they'll take our pile of Fresh Direct bags, too.

Added incentive: Some of our doomsday cache may be approaching expiration dates. Does anything last forever?

That spiky sphere

We're certainly over COVID-19, but are we also over the coronavirus model? You know the one. It's the round image with the germ's notorious crown-like spikes. Sometimes it's red, sometimes blue or purple, but always, always ominous.

The prickly orb is on every news and medical site. It's all over TV and on flyers for COVID car cleaning. It's a nasty little emoji guest that needs to go home.

Graphic designers everywhere, please come up with something else! It *did* serve nicely as a vivid reminder of the murderous little devil. Now, over it.

Election fatigue

Oh boy, what an election it was. Choosing a president fueled the chaos in our lockdown minds, but something else occurred in 2020. It was the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote.

Congress passed the 19th Amendment on June 4, 1919. It was ratified on Aug. 18, 1920. We marked the centennial with a special postage stamp, museum exhibitions and the like.

But the fight didn't end in 1920. Practically speaking, Black women, indigenous women and other women of color continued to face stumbling blocks. Over that, then and now.

Get over being over it

Are these unprecedented times?

Well, when it comes to the pandemic, a little something called Black Death killed 25 to 30 million people from 1347 to 1352.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 500 million people, or one-third of the world's population, were infected in the flu pandemic of 1918-19. The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide.

How about getting over being Over It? Tired of wearing masks, following other protocols, being housebound, having to sacrifice? Consider that some of our grandfathers stormed the beaches of Normandy and slogged through the jungles of Vietnam. Consider that business owners have lost their livelihoods and families are struggling to afford food.

When it comes to the U.S. election, the times, they were unprecedented. But the caterwauling. We're over it.

People are truly suffering. For those of us who have jobs and food and a roof, just breathe.

As one Holocaust survivor put it: Things of importance fade into oblivion when NEVER AGAIN is reduced to a meaningless mantra.

NEWMAN

From page C1

I'll help: Static electricity is the result of an imbalance between negative and positive charges in an object, according to loc.gov.

I recently bought myself a new winter hat with some birthday money, and I hope it arrives before National Hat Day on Jan. 15. The holiday has been celebrated since at least 1983, and encourages folks to don their favorite hat for a day.

Last year, I told you about World Quark Day on Jan. 19, but if the odd European dairy product does not excite you, the day is also National Popcorn Day. The holiday recognizing the time-honored snack has been around since at least 1988.

If you've been journaling all year, you've also been unknowingly practicing for National Handwriting Day on Jan. 23.

The day was established by the Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association in 1977 to promote the consumption of pens, pencils and paper.

Jan. 23 was chosen because it's the birthday of John Hancock, the first person to sign the Declaration of Independence.

I'll wrap this up with the holiday that started it all, National Puzzle Day, on Jan. 29. I came up with the idea for this column not long after interviewing puzzlers around Southwest Michigan for a feature story in January 2019, and ran the first installment March 3, previewing March holidays.

For me, 2021 might mean ending this column after two full years, or it might mean chugging along and having to get more creative.

If you would like me to keep going, let me know. If you'd like me to change it up, let me know that also. My inbox and DMs are open.

Email me at anewman@TheHP.com or find me on Twitter @HPANewman.

Alexandra Newman is a staff writer for The Herald-Palladium.

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The Democrats' Eric Swalwell problem

House Democratic leaders are trying to keep the espionage scandal surrounding Intelligence Committee member Rep. Eric Swalwell under tight control. But it's going to be an uphill battle.

Byron York

Republicans are pushing harder and harder to learn more about Swalwell's relationship with Chinese spy Christine Fang. And the Democrats' strongest ally – The New York Times, which has averted its eyes and so far refused to publish even one word about the matter – can't hold out forever.

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy is demanding the FBI brief all members of the Intelligence Committee on what the bureau knows about the relationship between Swalwell and Fang. That relationship began sometime after Fang arrived in the U.S. in 2011, before Swalwell was elected to Congress, and continued through 2015, by which time Swalwell had won election to the House, and Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi picked him for a coveted spot on the Intelligence Committee.

U.S. authorities had Fang under surveillance, and apparently picked up information about her having some sort of personal relationship with a member of Congress – Swalwell. In 2015, the FBI met with Swalwell – again, a member of the Intelligence Committee – to inform him that Fang was a spy. Swalwell says he immediately cut off all contact with Fang, who quickly left the U.S. in mid-2015.

In the next year, 2016, Swalwell started accusing the Trump campaign of collusion with Russia. He proposed a 9/11-style commission to investigate the alleged influence of Russian spy agencies with then-candidate Donald Trump and top members of his campaign. No one in the public knew it at the time, but Swalwell had just recently had some sort of involvement with a spy himself – one the FBI had actually warned him about. As 2016 and 2017 went on, Swalwell became one of the leading voices attacking President Trump and his Republican defenders on the debunked Russia issue.

Now, Republicans look back on those days and are amazed that Swalwell would play the role of attack dog when he himself had been in close contact with a foreign spy.

"Democrats spent four years accusing Republicans of cozying up to foreign spies when the Democrats themselves were doing that," said Rep. Devin Nunes, the ranking Republican on the Intelligence Committee, in a statement. "Now my Republican colleagues are asking me if there are Democrat pee tapes and if they're being blackmailed with naked pictures of their party leaders. Maybe all the Democrats' accusations stem from what's really happening to them."

There's a lot of history in that statement. The "pee tape" remark is a reference to the Steele dossier, which, among other false allegations, spread the story that private citizen Donald Trump had watched as prostitutes performed a kinky sex act in a Moscow hotel room in 2013 as Russian intelligence services filmed the entire episode.

Swalwell was enormously interested in, perhaps obsessed with, the "pee tape." In November 2017, when the Intelligence Committee interviewed Keith Schiller, a bodyguard who accompanied Trump to Moscow, Swalwell asked question after question about the hotel room story. He never got anywhere, because there was no story to tell.

For the GOP, the important thing right now is to learn exactly what the FBI knows about the case. Last week, McCarthy received an FBI briefing on the matter – the FBI had actually canceled the briefing twice before finally consenting. But the briefing was just for McCarthy and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who were the only two members in the room. The information was classified, and both are forbidden from discussing what was said, which helps Pelosi keep a lid on the matter. But McCarthy made no secret of his belief that the Swalwell case is a very big deal.

"One thing that was fundamentally answered – he should not be on Intel," McCarthy said after the briefing. In a later interview with Fox News' Martha MacCallum, McCarthy said, "I can't tell you about what (was in the briefing), but I can tell you this. What I learned today, and anyone who was in that room with me would never allow Swalwell to be on the Intel Committee, or to continue to be on it." If any leaders knew about the Swalwell information earlier, McCarthy said, "he should not be serving." That was a direct shot at Pelosi, who had picked the ambitious young congressman for the committee.

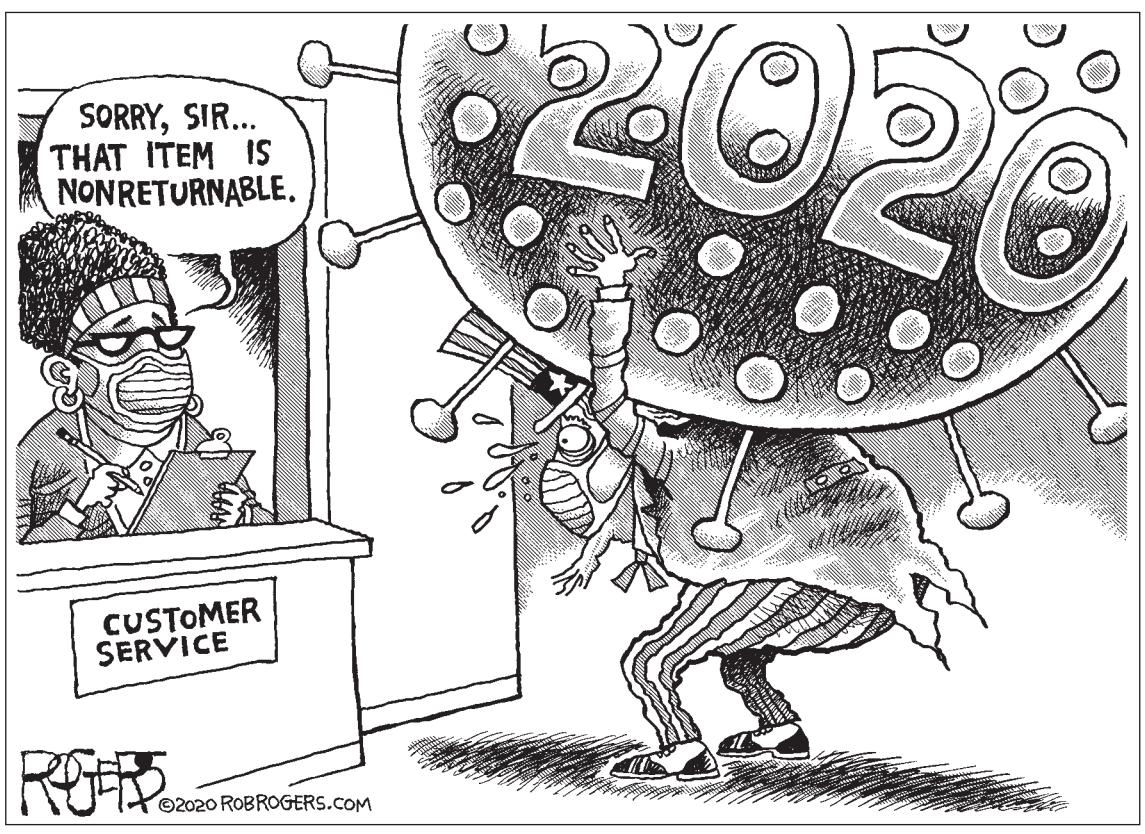
The next step for Republicans is to get the FBI to brief all the members of the Intelligence Committee. If more members, including members of Pelosi's party, learn the facts of the case, there will be increasing pressure on Pelosi to do something about it. McCarthy, said one Hill Republican, "thinks both Republicans and Democrats would agree that the information contained in the briefing would lead folks to conclude Swalwell should not be on the committee."

It's unclear when that FBI briefing will occur. Perhaps Pelosi will try to block it. Perhaps she can delay things for a while. But with a diminished majority next year, the speaker will have other fights to fight. At some point, the Eric Swalwell story will come out.

Byron York is a columnist for The Washington Examiner.

ANOTHER OPINION

Save the monarch



Monarch butterfly, get in line. Federal officials have acknowledged that the once ubiquitous orange-and-black visitor to backyards and gardens is a candidate for threatened or endangered status. Nonetheless, no immediate – nor even short-term – action will be taken to save them. Why? Because other species are at the front of the line, awaiting the designation.

Environmentalists are sounding an alarm that projected delays of up to several years could mean disaster for the butterfly that used to be a common sight on the North American landscape, where 90 percent of the monarchs live.

On Dec. 15, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said emergency action could be taken earlier and will be evaluated annually, but current plans call for a proposition to list the monarch under the Endangered Species Act in 2024 unless things improve. Or get worse.

And even once the proposition is made, another year (for public comment) would follow.

The delay in a monarch rescue mission comes despite an unheard of public campaign on behalf of the butterfly. That campaign reached from school classrooms to garden clubs to environmental groups and government agencies. Since the effort began picking up speed in 2014, milkweed plants (a lifeline for monarchs) are being planted or nurtured countrywide.

Still, the monarch is all but disappearing. Its population in the eastern U.S. has dropped by about 80 percent since the mid-1990s, and it's worse in the West. The culprits are development, herbicides in cropland and global warming, which indirectly impacts the monarchs' annual migration.

Getting the monarch on the list now would require federal agencies to consider – consider – the effects of land development on the butterfly and its habitat. That should happen without an endangered designation, but it doesn't.

So the listing is critical. Literally.

Federal officials said that a rigorous science-based evaluation already has found that the monarch is in jeopardy, but other listing actions came first. The Trump administration has listed only 25 species, fewer than any since the endangered species measure was enacted in 1973. The Obama administration had added 360. Advocacy groups have said 47 species have gone extinct waiting to be listed.

This underscores a broader problem that seems endemic at all levels and departments of government: the mire of bureaucracy, red tape, intransigence, lethargy. Pick your unflattering adjective. There are plenty to choose from.

– Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Biden was left with a mess in Iran. Can he get out of it?

Joe Biden is going to have a lot of complicated issues competing for his attention when he takes office next month. Among the thorniest is Iran.

Doyle McManus

During his presidential campaign, Biden promised to revive President Barack Obama's 2015 nuclear deal with the Tehran regime. That's the one President Donald Trump denounced as toothless and abandoned in 2018.

Since then, Trump has imposed ever more punishing economic sanctions on Iran, but they haven't caused Iran to bend to his will. Instead, the Tehran regime has retaliated by breaking the nuclear limits; Iran now holds 12 times as much low-enriched uranium as the agreement would have allowed.

It seems as if Biden's path should be simple: Reverse the Trump sanctions and agree once again to the 2015 deal, which put a lid on Iran's nuclear program by limiting its ability to enrich uranium. But as a veteran U.S. diplomat reminded me last week, negotiations between the United States and Iran have never been smooth; the two countries have built up a deep store of animosity and mistrust since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

Last week, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said his government is willing to return to the Obama-era nuclear limits if the U.S. lifts sanctions. If the new Biden administration "returns to the situation as it was in 2017, then so will we," he said.

But that's where the rub will come. Negotiating a step-by-step agreement about which nuclear limits will be reimposed first, which sanctions will be released when, and how Iran's compliance will be verified will take some delicate diplomacy.

And Biden may have trouble building consensus for a new deal. The 2015 agreement was opposed not only by most Republicans, but by several pro-Israel Democrats, including Senate Democratic leader Charles E. Schumer of New York. Even Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, a close Biden ally and advisor, has made clear he opposes lifting all of the sanctions Trump imposed, arguing that they give the United States leverage over Iran.

That's a widely held belief in Washington.

"We've built up this presumed leverage," Michael Singh of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a conservative critic of the pact, warned at a conference last week. "We'd be giving it away for nothing in return."

But here's why opponents of lifting nuclear sanctions are wrong.

First, for all their purported power as "leverage," Trump's sanctions haven't worked. Yes, they brought Iran's economy to its knees, but their goal was to compel Iran to change its behavior, and that didn't happen.

Second, lifting Trump's sanctions against Iran's nuclear activities won't deprive the United States of all its leverage. Trump and earlier presidents also imposed sanctions on Iran over nonnuclear issues, including its ballistic missile program, its support for terrorist groups and human rights abuses. Biden hasn't offered to relinquish those.

Third, an attempt by Biden to keep some nuclear sanctions would likely be a deal-breaker. Both leaders have offered to return to the terms they agreed to in 2015; if the United States backtracks from Biden's offer, the Iranians would likely backtrack too.

The bigger problem is that, even if the sanctions are removed, a return to the 2015 deal may be impossible.

"Perhaps the distrust between the two sides is too wide to bridge," Karim Sadjadpour of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace warned recently.

For Biden, only one thing is certain: Iran policy will require a major commitment of time and political capital during his first year in office – a time when he will need his main focus to be the COVID-19 pandemic and the U.S. economy.

Here's one suggestion for improving his chance of success with Iran: Begin by announcing that his administration will make sure Iran can buy COVID-19 vaccines on the international market without running afoul of U.S. sanctions.

The Trump administration said its sanctions did not apply to humanitarian or medical shipments – but it has also imposed cumbersome bureaucratic requirements on banks, suppliers and shipping companies requesting permits for such exports. Biden could streamline that process to demonstrate his interest in a better relationship.

The first priority, as one former U.S. diplomat told me, is to restart normal working conversations with Iran.

"The only way to get anything done is to have regular exchanges and listen to each other," said John W. Limbert, who was one of 52 American hostages seized at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Biden doesn't need this kind of diplomatic tangle to complicate his first year in office. But it's a problem Trump has left him – and a test of his commitment to steer foreign policy back toward the multilateralist course Obama set.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

The perversion of science

America's scientists are essentially miracle workers. Within mere months, they have developed highly effective vaccines for COVID-19. By year's end, millions of Americans will have received their first doses. We should begin to see death rates from COVID drop precipitously in the coming weeks as more and more Americans gain immunity from the virus.

Ben Shapiro

Yet never has there been a larger gap between America's scientists and America's public health professionals. Science is supposed to guide the decision-making for both groups.

Yet public health professionals have consistently failed to utilize science as their lodestar, instead sacrificing their credibility on the altar of intersectional politics. Throughout the summer, public health professionals ignored perfectly obvious dangers surrounding mass protests over alleged racial injustice; many of those top health professionals suggested that the risks of racism in American society amounted to a health problem all their own.

Throughout the pandemic, public health officials have caved to the political incentive toward overbroad lockdown policies, simultaneously exempting themselves from the rules.

Now we learn that public health officials pushed for vaccine distribution not based on health risk but on racial factors. As the U.K.'s Daily Mail reported this week: "Every US state has been advised to consider ethnic minorities as a critical and vulnerable group in their vaccine distribution plans, according to Centers for Disease Control guidance. As a result, half of the nation's states have outlined plans that now prioritize black, Hispanic and indigenous residents over white people in some way."

This insanity is rooted in eugenic concerns. "Older populations are whiter," public health "expert" Dr. Harald Schmidt of the University of Pennsylvania told The New York Times in early December. "Society is structured in a way that enables them to live longer. Instead of giving additional health benefits to those who already had more of them, we can start to level the playing field a bit." In other words, a disproportionate number of white people survive to old age; we should, therefore, give vaccines to younger, less vulnerable nonwhite citizens in "essential industries" and let Grandma die.

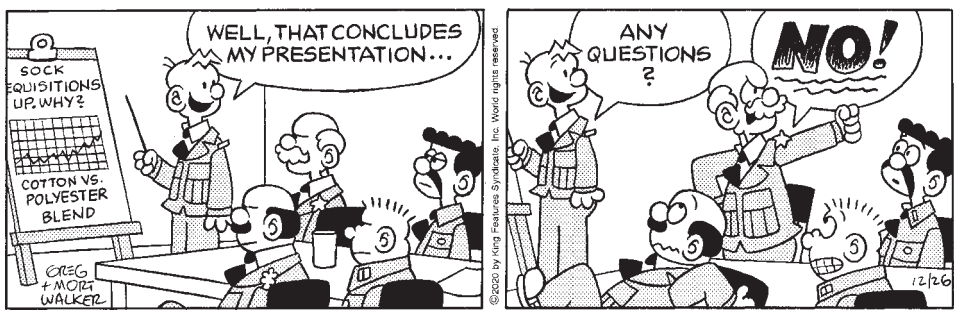
Not only is this obviously racist; it happens to engender policy that kills more black people in absolute terms. Age is a far better predictor of COVID vulnerability than race: As Dr. Gbenga Ogedegbe of the New York University Grossman School of Medicine found, infected patients die at the same rate regardless of race. This means that if you give tranches of the vaccine to patients based on racial concerns rather than age concerns, the most vulnerable black and Latino populations – elderly blacks and Latinos – are more likely to die so that younger black and Latinos can receive a vaccine for a disease to which they are probably 10 times less vulnerable.

This is the price of social justice thinking. By treating people as members of racial groups rather than as individuals, and by prioritizing race above age, more black and brown people die in absolute terms, even if the overall proportionality of black and brown deaths drops versus white deaths. "Equitable" statistical outcome has become a higher goal than actually saving lives.

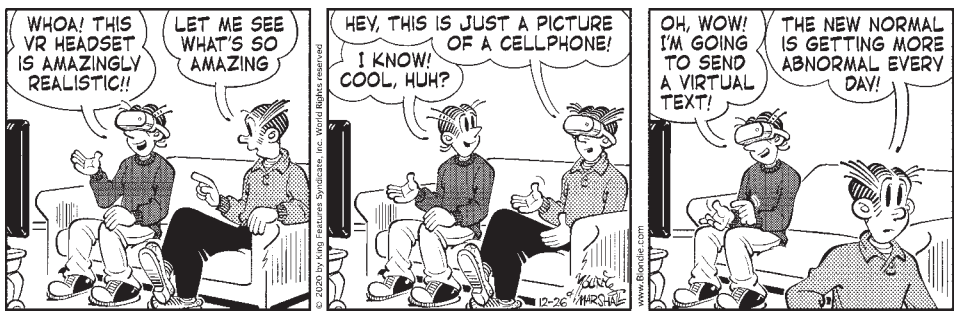
That's absurd and tragic. And it should undermine our trust in our public health officials. So, trust the scientists when they root their decisions in science. But doubt them at the top of your lungs when they start proclaiming that they are experts on morality.

Ben Shapiro is host of "The Ben Shapiro Show" and editor-in-chief of DailyWire.com.

BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE


WHOA! THIS VR HEADSET IS AMAZINGLY REALISTIC!!
LET ME SEE WHAT'S SO AMAZING
HEY, THIS IS JUST A PICTURE OF A CELLPHONE!
I KNOW! COOL, HUH?
OH, WOW! I'M GOING TO SEND A VIRTUAL TEXT!
THE NEW NORMAL IS GETTING MORE ABNORMAL EVERY DAY!
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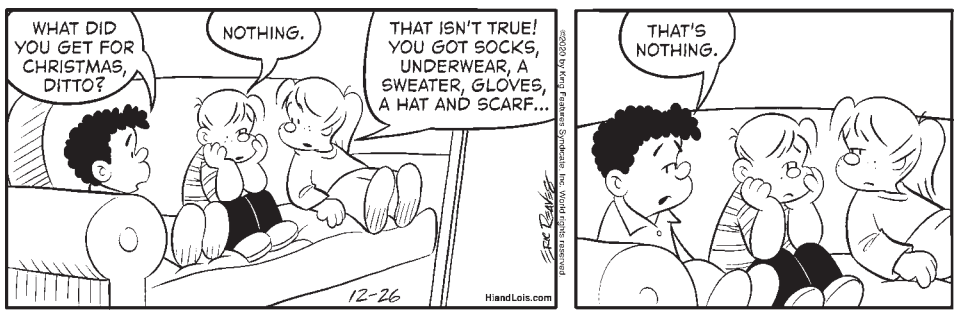
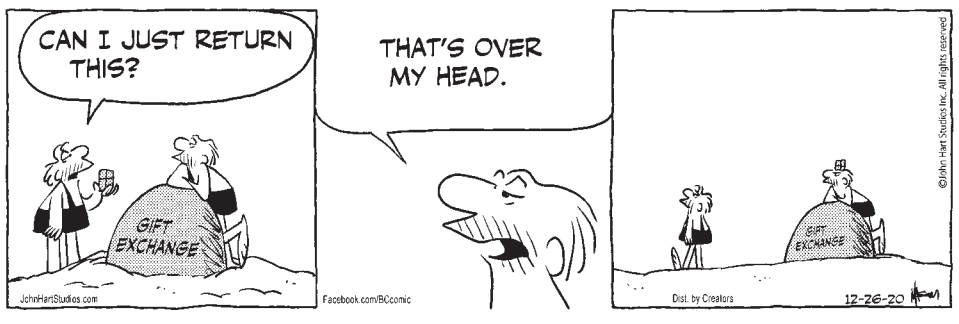
www.Blondie.com
12-26

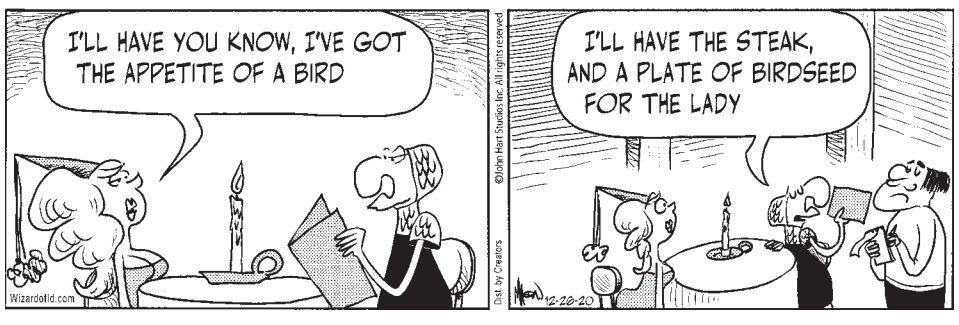
HI & LOIS


WHAT DID YOU GET FOR CHRISTMAS, DITTO?
NOTHING.
THAT ISN'T TRUE! YOU GOT SOCKS, UNDERWEAR, A SWEATER, GLOVES, A HAT AND SCARF...
THAT'S NOTHING.
12-26
HiandLois.com

BC



WIZARD OF ID


I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT THE APPETITE OF A BIRD
I'LL HAVE THE STEAK, AND A PLATE OF BIRDSEED FOR THE LADY
Wizardofid.com
Dist. by Creators
12-26-20

DILBERT

I DID MORE WORK FROM HOME TODAY BEFORE 10 A.M. THAN I COULD DO IN THE OFFICE ALL DAY.
I COULD TAKE A NAP FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, AND NO ONE WOULD BE THE WISER.
YOUR EMPLOYER PAYS ME TO WATCH YOU AT HOME, BUT I WOULDN'T SAY NO TO A WELL-CONSIDERED BRIBE.
I CAN WORK WITH THAT.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
12-26-20 ©2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

GARFIELD

SIGH
DECEMBER 26TH IS THE SECOND-SADDEST DAY OF THE YEAR
RIGHT AFTER NATIONAL DOG DAY
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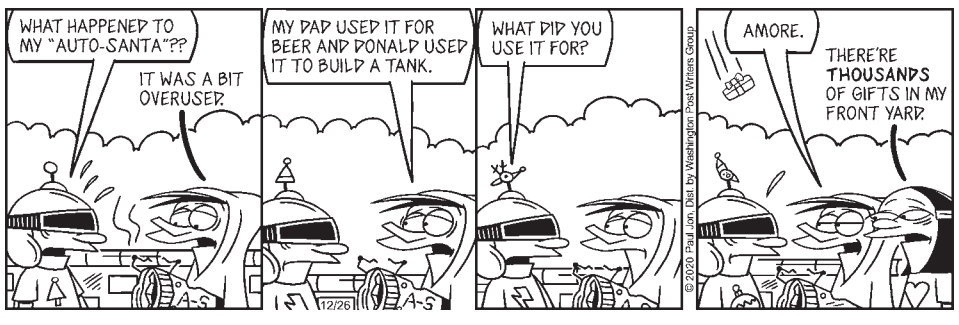
JIM DAVIS 12-26

FORT KNOX


WHAT HAPPENED TO MY "AUTO-SANTA"??
IT WAS A BIT OVERUSED.
MY DAD USED IT FOR BEER AND DONALD USED IT TO BUILD A TANK.
WHAT DID YOU USE IT FOR?
AMORE.
THERE'RE THOUSANDS OF GIFTS IN MY FRONT YARD.
12/26
A-S
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PICKLES

WHAT KIND OF CEREAL IS THAT, GRAMPA?
IT'S A MANLY CEREAL.
IT'S GOT WHOLE GRAINS, SEEDS, BERRIES, NUTS AND TWIGS IN IT. IT'S THE KIND OF CEREAL THAT'LL PUT HAIR ON YOUR CHEST.
DOES GRAMMA EAT IT TOO?
NO. FOR SOME REASON GRAMMA DOESN'T REALLY WANT HAIR ON HER CHEST.
12/26
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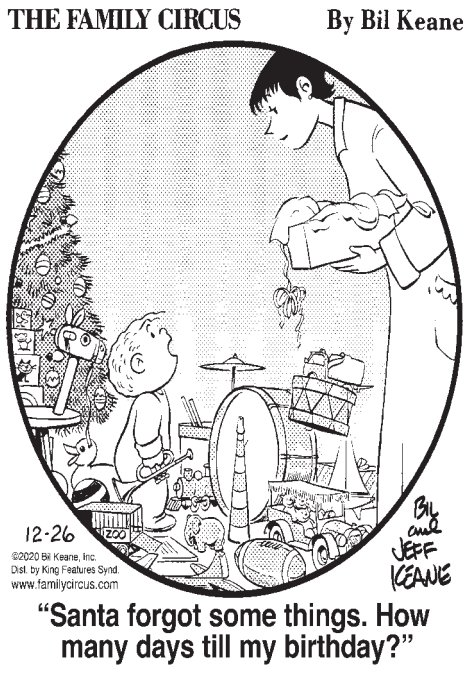
FAMILY CIRCUS

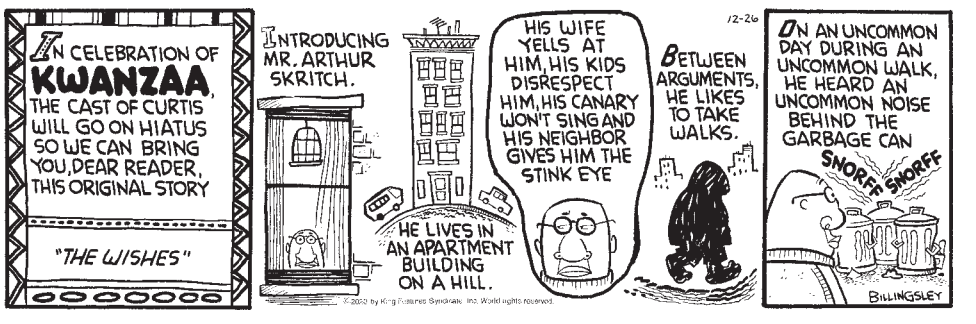


DENNIS THE MENACE

BABY BLUES

HAMMIE! NO!
OUR CHRISTMAS WREATH IS NOT FOR PASSING PRACTICE!
AWW!
THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, SHE'LL TAKE AWAY MY TACKLING DUMMY!
©2020 Baby Blues Bros. LLC
Dist. by King Features Syndicate 12-26

CURTIS

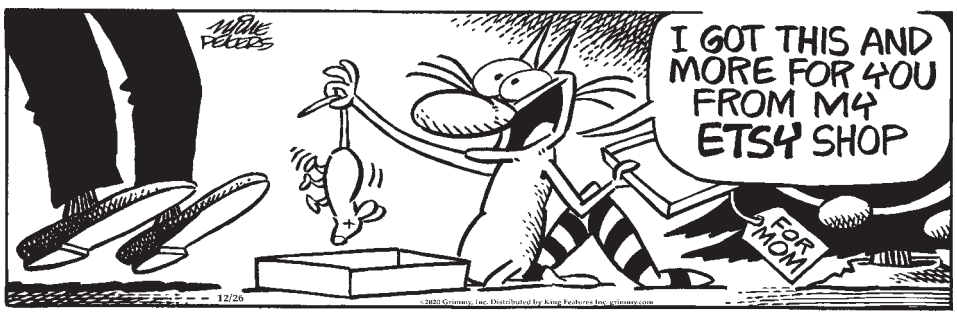

IN CELEBRATION OF KWANZAA, THE CAST OF CURTIS WILL GO ON HIATUS SO WE CAN BRING YOU, DEAR READER, THIS ORIGINAL STORY
"THE WISHES"
INTRODUCING MR. ARTHUR SKRITCH.
HE LIVES IN AN APARTMENT BUILDING ON A HILL.
HIS WIFE YELLS AT HIM, HIS KIDS DISRESPECT HIM, HIS CANARY WON'T SING AND HIS NEIGHBOR GIVES HIM THE STINK EYE
BETWEEN ARGUMENTS, HE LIKES TO TAKE WALKS.
12-26
ON AN UNCOMMON DAY DURING AN UNCOMMON WALK, HE HEARD AN UNCOMMON NOISE BEHIND THE GARBAGE CAN
SNORFF SNORFF
BILLINGSLEY

ZITS

HI, DAD. HEADING BACK TO THE EIGHTIES?
VERY CLEVER.
2021 IS GOING TO BE THE YEAR I GET BACK IN SHAPE.
DURAN DURAN
AND THE YEAR MY INSTAGRAM FINALLY BLOWS UP.
LATER, GATOR.
DUTCH DURAN
12-26
SCOTT AND JERRY BERGMAN
zitscomics.com

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM


MARK PETERS
I GOT THIS AND MORE FOR YOU FROM MY ETSY SHOP
FOR MOM
12/26
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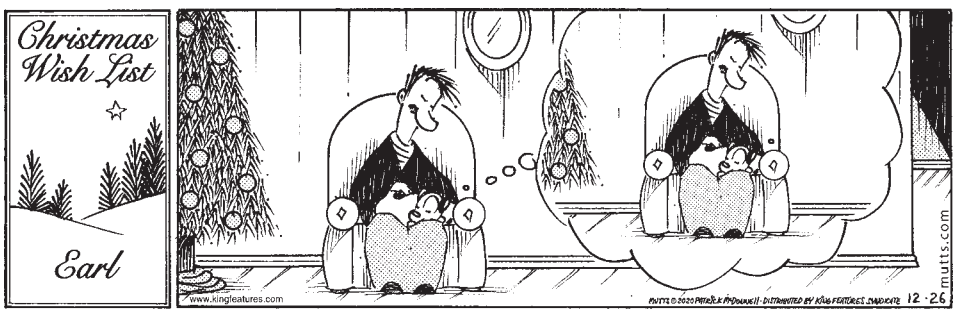
MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE HOLIDAYS ARE ALREADY OVER.
THEY'RE NOT OVER YET, SWEETIE...
12-26
THEY END ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. YOU HAVE ALMOST A FULL WEEK MORE!
WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT?
JUDGING BY WHAT HAPPENED THIS YEAR? PROBABLY SKYNET.
REALLY? YOU WANT TO START EXPLAINING THAT TO A FOUR-YEAR-OLD?
KEEFE
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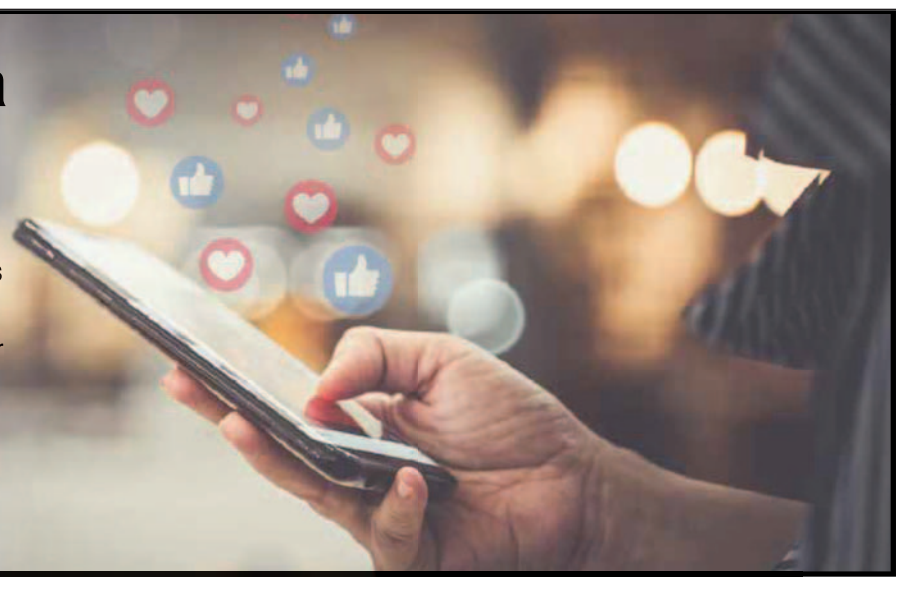


PRIME TIME TV

SATURDAY EVENING DEC. 26

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	To Tell the Truth CC (DVS)		Shark Tank CC (DVS)		The Rookie "The Q Word" (Part 1 of 2)	
CBS 2 3 22	Paid Program	NCIS: New Orleans CC (DVS)		48 Hours CC		48 Hours CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	Ellen's Game of Games CC		The Wall "Hecthan and Hector" CC		Saturday Night Live (N) CC	
FOX 17 222 28 32	To Be Announced	Boxing PBC: David O. Morrell Jr. vs. Mike Gavronski. (N) (L)				Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Lawrence Welk	As Time Goes By	As Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow "Orlando Hour 1"		Worsley's Royal Palace Secrets	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	News	Friends CC
MNT 50	Graham Bensinger	Dateline "Manson" CC		Dateline "Good & Evil" CC		Storm of Suspicion	
WCIU 26	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland "A Heartland Christmas"		Murdoch Mysteries CC		Murdoch Mysteries CC	
WGN 9	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	WGN Weekend News at Nine (N)	
A&E	:00 Most Daring	Most Daring Trooper in harm's way. CC		Most Daring Gun battle. CC		:01 Most Daring Pedestrian peril. CC	
AMC	★ Vegas Vacation	📽 ★★★ National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ('89, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Beverly D'Angelo. CC					National Lamp.
Animal	Pit Bulls	Pit Bulls & Parolees: Our Biggest Rescues				Pit Bulls & Parolees	
BET	★ When the Bough Breaks			📽 ★ Acrimony ('18) Taraji P. Henson.			
Big Ten	Football	Big Ten Elite CC		B1G Football in 60		B1G Football in 60	
Bravo	6:09 📽 ★★ Overboard ('87) CC	:45 📽 ★★ Overboard ('87) Goldie Hawn. An amnesiac millionairess is duped by a cunning carpenter. CC					
Cartoon	:00 📽 ★★★ Smallfoot ('18)			Burgers	American	American	Rick
Cinemax	Ex-Girlfriend	📽 ★ The Watch ('12) Ben Stiller, Vince Vaughn. CC			:44 📽 ★ Disaster Movie ('08, Comedy) Matt Lanter. CC		
CMT	★★ The Guardian	📽 ★ Gone in 60 Seconds ('00) Nicolas Cage. CC					
CNBC	Boss	Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss	
CNN	Newsr'm	CNN Newsroom (N)		First Ladies CC		First Ladies CC	
Comedy	📽 ★★ Step Brothers ('08) Will Ferrell.				:45 📽 ★★ Get Hard ('15)		
Discovery	Deadliest Catch	Deadliest Catch "Danger Close"		Deadliest Catch CC		Deadliest Catch: On Deck (N) CC	
Disney	Gabby	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City
DIY	Holmes	Maine Cabin Masters		Maine Cabin Masters		Maine Cabin Masters	
E!	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City	Sex-City
ESPN	College Football					College Football	
ESPN2	:00 World Axe Throwing League				UFC	UFC Archival	
ESPNC	Football	College Football From Nov. 25, 1995.				College Football	
Food	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
Fox News	Life	Watters' World (N)		Justice With Jeanine		Greg Gutfeld	
Fox Sports	NBA Basketball: Cavaliers at Pistons				Pistons	Pistons	MSHOF
Freefrm	5:30 📽 Jumanji	📽 ★★★ Inside Out ('15, Children's) Voices of Amy Poehler, Phyllis Smith. CC				📽 ★★ Pocahontas ('95) CC	
FX	Spider-Man 2	📽 ★★★ Spider-Man: Homecoming ('17, Action) Tom Holland. Peter Parker harnesses his new powers to battle the Vulture. CC					
Golf	Seve: The Movie		📽 ★★ Tommy's Honour ('16) Peter Mullan. CC				
Hallmark	Crown for Christmas	📽 USS Christmas ('20, Mystery) Jen Lilley, Trevor Donovan, Barbara Niven. CC				📽 A Christmas Carousel ('20) CC	
HBO	Ford v Ferrari	📽 ★★★ Independence Day ('96) Will Smith. Earthlings vs. evil aliens in 15-mile-wide ships. CC					📽 ★★ Midway
History	:00 History's Greatest Mysteries			History's Greatest Mysteries (N) CC			
HGTV	Home	Chateau		Love It or List It		Love It or List It	
Learning	1000-Lb.	1000-Lb. Sisters		1000-Lb. Sisters		1000-Lb. Sisters	
Lifetime	6:00 📽 Obsessed	📽 ★★ The Bodyguard ('92) Kevin Costner, Whitney Houston. A bodyguard falls for the singer-actress he must protect. CC					
MSNBC	Voices	Obama "Tightrope"		Obama CC		MSNBC Specials	
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Pregame	7:55 NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Chicago Bulls.					Postgame
NFL	NFL	:15 NFL Football Miami Dolphins at Las Vegas Raiders. (N) CC					
Nick	Danger	Danger	Hustle	Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler		To Catch a Smuggler		To Catch a Smuggler	
Oxygen	Dateline: Secrets	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered "Blind justice" CC				Buried in the Backyard	
Parmt	Yellowst.	7:52 Yellowstone		8:54 Yellowstone		9:56 Yellowstone	
Showtime	Full Metal Jacket	📽 ★★★ 1917 ('19, War) George MacKay, Dean-Charles Chapman. CC				Your Honor "Part One" CC	
Starz	★ The Intruder	In The Long Run	:26 Power Book II: Ghost "Family First"		:28 📽 ★★★ Once Upon a Time... In Hollywood ('19) CC		
STZENC	:28 📽 ★★ Men in Black II ('02) Tommy Lee Jones. CC			📽 ★★ Men in Black 3 ('12, Action) Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones, Josh Brolin. CC			
SyFy	5:45 📽 ★★★ Se7en ('95) Brad Pitt.		📽 ★★★ The Goonies ('85) Sean Astin. Young misfits find a 17th-century pirate's treasure map. CC				
TBS	Talladega Nights:	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
TCM	4:00 📽 Ben-Hur	📽 ★★★★ Casablanca ('42) Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman. CC (DVS)				📽 ★★★ The Way We Were ('73)	
TMC	:00 📽 ★★★ Ex Machina ('15) Domhnall Gleeson. CC			📽 Redcon-1 ('18, Horror) Oris Erhuero, Carlos Gallardo, Mark Strange. CC			
TNT	Shrek 3rd	📽 ★★★ Shrek 2 ('04) CC (DVS)				Shrek Forever After	
Travel	Terrifying	Most Terrifying		Most Terrifying		Devil's Road	
TV Land	Two Men	Two Men	Two and a Half Men		Two Men	Two Men	Two Men
USA	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	📽 ★★★ Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince ('09) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. CC (DVS)					
VH1	📽 ★★ Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls				📽 ★★ The Longest Yard		
WGN-A	:00 Blue Bloods	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Husband emails girlfriends he had during 10-year separation

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were married for several years, divorced, then remarried 10 years later. During our separation, he had a lot of girlfriends. To this day, he keeps all their contact information. I discovered he has emailed some of them since we've been back together. I think he uses email to avoid any phone calls that I would be aware of.

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

Our marriage is overall going well, but I don't understand his need to keep up with some of these past "friends." When we remarried, I deleted all of my past contacts. I'm worried that he's still attached to at least a few of these women, and I don't think it's right. What do you think? It makes me very insecure and upset. What should I do? I'm already in therapy. – Uneasy In The South

DEAR UNEASY: Marriage is a choice. Your husband CHOSE to remarry you. I am going to assume that because of your insecurity, you have been hesitant to ask him directly why he feels a need to stay in touch with these women. Your therapist may be able to help you with this. If he/she is willing to invite him to accompany you for a session, consider posing the question there.

DEAR ABBY: I recently contracted coronavirus and had a difficult time recovering. It has been three months, and I am still suffering from long-term aftereffects.

When my co-workers and supervisors ask how I'm feeling and I tell them, they almost immediately downplay my response. Some of them ignore my response and tell me, "Oh, that's not bad. One time, I lost so much hair, blah, blah," or they say, "Well, you're working. You'll be fine." I feel like it belittles me and makes what I went through seem like a bid for sympathy. How would you recommend I reply? I can't ignore the people at work. – Downplayed Up North

DEAR DOWNPLAYED: All you need to say is, "If it happens to you, you will understand that I feel lucky to be alive. So many people weren't."

DEAR ABBY: I have a question about etiquette. My son is getting married soon. In a conversation with the bride-to-be, I asked if she had chosen a florist and was told that her mom will be making all the wedding flowers out of natural materials. Abby, I hate silk, i.e. "plastic" flowers! Would I be creating a huge problem if I offered to purchase my own wrist corsage from a florist, or should I keep quiet and deal with ugly fake "flowers" with my beautiful dress? Or, can I remove the fake corsage directly after photos are taken? – Offended Mom Of The Groom

DEAR OFFENDED MOM: The proper thing to do is keep your opinion to yourself and go along with the plans your soon-to-be daughter-in-law and her mother have made. Wear the corsage and your sweetest smile for the wedding photos. After that it shouldn't cause a problem if you QUIETLY remove it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

How do you find a hobby that gives you joy?

Adapted from an online discussion.

DEAR CAROLYN: So, my partner and I are giving up on our efforts to birth or adopt a child, and I have decided to make the next year one of filling my life with things that make me excited to be alive.

Carolyn Hax

A number of my friends have hobbies they are super passionate about, and communities of friends they have met through those hobbies, and I'm envious and a bit mystified.

I have thought of copying one of them, but none of the specific pursuits – biking, knitting, gastropubs, spoken word – specifically interests me. Maybe I'm a boring person, but it's hard for me to visualize myself doing something with my free time other than watching my favorite TV show du jour.

My partner works 70-hour weeks as an EMT and doesn't seem to have the same problem; he comes home, hangs out with me, goes to sleep, gets up and goes back to work.

How do I find the hobby that suits my personality and gives me joy – and with it, the tribe of new friends I have been hoping for? – Hobby Envy

DEAR HOBBY ENVY: I'm so sorry your family-building plans didn't work out for you.

Maybe a hobby isn't the right direction for you now, though; maybe you're better suited for a cause?

Just before reading your question, I listened to an interview with the superintendent of a large urban school system, and I was reminded – again, it seems constant these days – of the *staggering* amount of need among U.S. children.

Need for food assistance, need for reading buddies or (when it's safe again) one-on-one tutoring, need for counseling, need for health care, need for clothing and basic hygiene supplies, need for school materials, need for repairs to crumbling infrastructure.

Your efforts to build a family say you care deeply about children – and that's something you can keep doing even if the children aren't your own. Maybe now you can have even more, or just broader, impact.

You can start small by checking with your local school to see what their volunteer needs and protocols are. If that's too painful right now, too soon, then consider something more arm's length, like collecting coats or books or other supplies for needy kids. You have time, energy and a craving for meaning, which says you have so much to give.

This doesn't mean, by the way, that hobbies are out. Keep dabbling, keep trying. And TV itself has communities, if you pick up a show with a following.

REGARDING HOBBY: Are you a boring person or a contented person?

My feeling as a longtime reader is that you get a lot of questions from people who ask you how to get to Point B only because the societal expectation is Point B, when they are actually content being at Point A.

It's OK not to have hobbies and to spend your time watching your TV show du jour, if that's what you want to do. – Anonymous

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Team Point A! I hope you don't mean to suggest it's wrong to be boring, though.

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

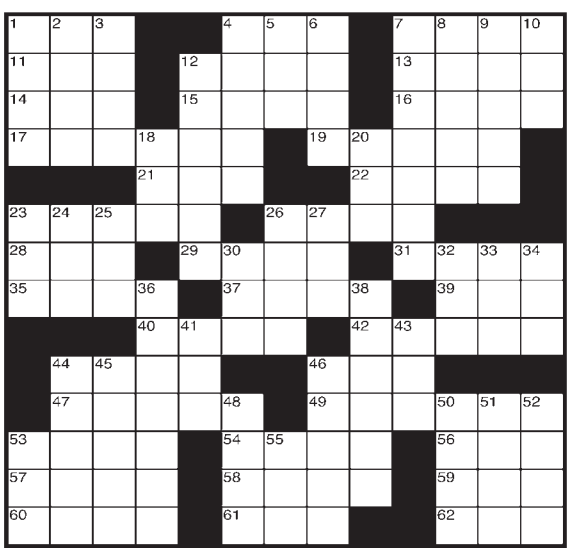
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Came down with
4 Director — Craven
7 Jane Austen novel
11 Royal pronoun
12 Behalf
13 Playwright — Coward
14 Ms. Hagen
15 Kind of farm
16 Recipe amt.
17 Broke in
19 Soprano — Callas
21 W-2 collectors
22 Lots of qts.
23 Puerto Rican port
26 Lowly laborer
28 Impress deeply
29 Prognostication
31 Adorn with ornaments
35 Ration out
37 Whip
39 Frost
40 Mortgage
42 Nebraska city
44 Harps on
46 Swamp
47 Zodiac sign
49 Scared
53 Level
54 Grimm villain
56 Ostrichlike bird
57 Sharp pain
58 Unwanted plant
59 Nocturnal predator
60 Melodramatic cry
61 Look sleepy
62 Ell preceder

DOWN
1 Sixty minutes
2 Jalopy
3 Faded
4 Dependents
5 Scratch out a living
6 Look like
7 Contest hopeful
8 1999 Exxon mergee
9 Geologic formations
10 Peak for Heidi
12 Record player
18 Razor brand
20 Earlier
23 Tillis or Dawber
24 Be in hock
25 Beauty-salon item
26 Potting medium
27 Annapolis grad
30 Sports org.
32 Estuary
33 Freud, to himself
34 — culpa
36 Garden borders
38 — it (walked)
41 Compass dir.
43 Dugout VIP
44 Maritime
45 Skybox locale
46 Divulged
48 Dispersed
50 Berserk
51 Sioux City site
52 "What's My Line?" host
53 Clean water org.
55 Earth (prefix)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	O	K	E		N	T	H		V	E	I	L
I	D	E	S		O	V	A		U	R	S	A
B	O	P	S		V	A	N		L	A	I	D
	R	I	A	T	A		D	U	C	T	S	
			Y	A	K		F	R	A			
W	U	R	S	T		F	U	N	N	E	L	
E	C	O			A	L	S		C	O	B	
B	L	T		V	E	T			R	O	Y	
	A	S	P	E	N	S		H	A	U	T	E
			L	E	A		O	I	L			
	S	P	A	S	M		A	S	C	O	T	
J	O	L	T		E	L	K		O	P	E	N
A	L	O	E		L	E	E		V	A	S	E
B	E	D	S		S	O	N		E	L	S	E



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BLAEC

UAGGE

PESEYL

NYILAM

May we purchase one of your books?
Of course!
Do you have every word in here?
WHEN ASKED IF HIS NEW DICTIONARY COULD BE PURCHASED, NOAH WEBSTER SAID ---
12/26
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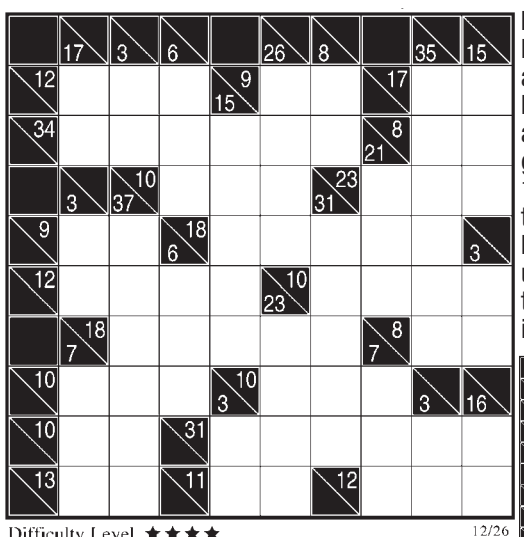
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" " (Answers Monday)

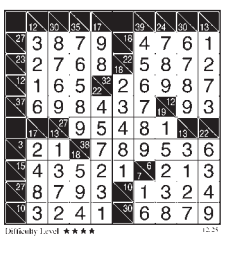
Yesterday's Jumbles: GAMUT MERGE EITHER KNOTTY
Answer: They loved baking Christmas cookies together and were enjoying all the — MERRYMAKING

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/26

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Charlotte Bronte wrote, "A ruffled mind makes a restless pillow."

A ruffled mind worrying about ruffs – trumps tricks – makes a restless declarer.

Defenders are always trying to collect trump tricks, but as long as they don't take too many, declarer shouldn't toss and turn.

This is another deal from the Chinese Premier League, which was played in two halves, the first in September and the second in October. It was written up by Jerry Li from Beijing.

How did South play in four hearts? West led a low diamond; East took the trick with his ace and returned a low diamond.

North, after one no-trump forcing and a jump to four hearts, was nervous that his club suit would give them a slam.

The declarer was Wang Xiangyang, representing the Wuhan Dongfang Club. He wanted to maintain control if the trumps were 4-1 and establish dummy's club suit.

He took the second trick with his diamond king, played a club to the ace, ruffed a low club with his heart king and led a low trump, ducked by West and won on the board. Then came the club king, on which declarer discarded his diamond jack.

It was tempting to lead a trump now, but it would have been fatal. Instead, South played another club and threw a spade. West ruffed but had no answer. He tried the diamond queen, but declarer ruffed with his heart queen and played a trump, dummy having one more than West at this stage. Wang lost only one diamond and two hearts.

North 12-26-20
♠ —
♥ J 10 9 8
♦ 10
♣ A K 10 9 7 6 4 3

West
♠ Q 9 8
♥ A 6 5 4
♦ Q 6 4
♣ Q 8 5

East
♠ K 7 4 3 2
♥ 7
♦ A 9 8 7 5 2
♣ 2

South
♠ A J 10 6 5
♥ K Q 3 2
♦ K J 3
♣ J

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 4

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

	8			5				
9				2	8	3		
	3	6		1				5
		3				7		1
	7			6			3	
6		8				9		
8				3		6	1	
		7	1	8				9
				9			5	

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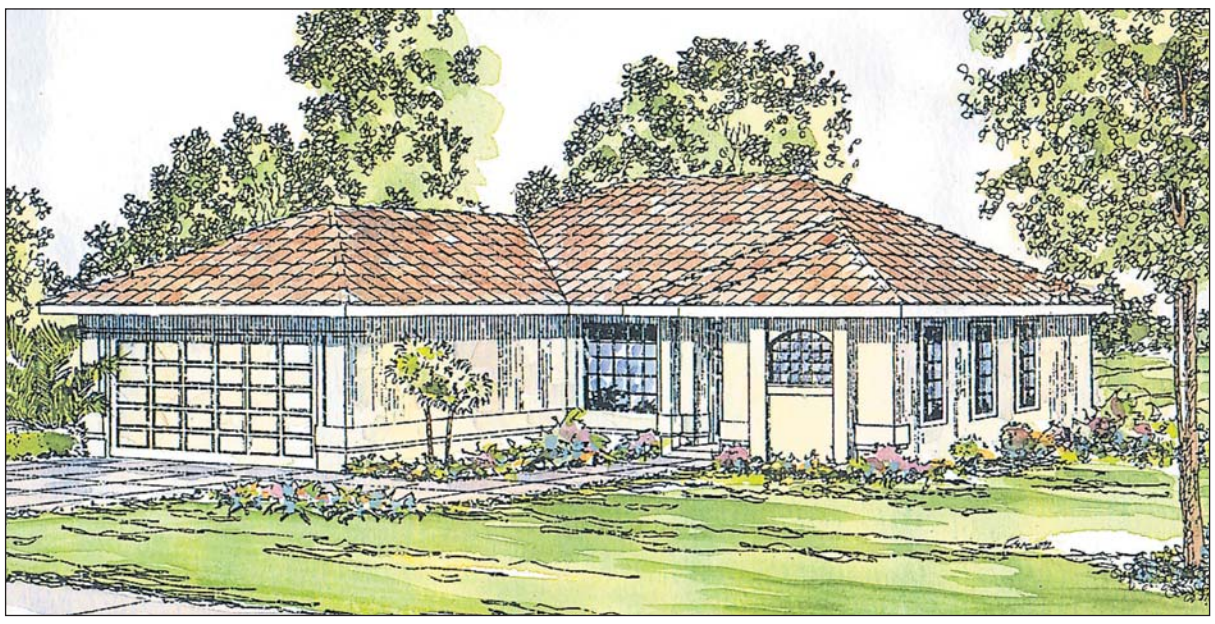
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

5	2	9	1	6	3	4	7	8
6	1	8	5	4	7	3	9	2
4	3	7	8	2	9	1	5	6
3	8	1	9	5	2	6	4	7
7	6	2	3	1	4	5	8	9
9	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	1
1	5	4	7	8	6	9	2	3
8	9	6	2	3	5	7	1	4
2	7	3	4	9	1	8	6	5

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



The Navarro

The Navarro isn't a large home. This Mediterranean-style plan is well-suited to the needs and pocketbooks of first-time home buyers. Empty nesters looking to downsize their maintenance responsibilities also may find what they're looking for here.

Gathering spaces fill the center, bedrooms are on the outer edges and the kitchen is at the heart of everything. Standing in the kitchen, you can gaze through the dining room to the front yard, or through the great room to the back yard.

Two huge windows bathe the vaulted great room in natural light. One of the windows is actually a sliding glass door that opens onto a wide screened porch at the rear.

A sink and dishwasher are built into a long counter that doubles as an eating bar. Utilities are just a few steps away, tucked in a pass-through space that opens into the garage. A coat closet is just inside the front door.

The owners' suite is more luxurious than you might expect to find in a home this size. It has a huge walk-in closet and a large tub and shower combination tucked into an alcove illuminated by an arched opening filled with glass blocks.

On the opposite side of the house, the two secondary bedrooms share a bathroom. A large linen closet is in the hall.

For more information, or to view other designs, visit www.associateddesigns.com or call 800-634-0123.

House name: Navarro 11-061

Living area: 1,352 square feet

Screened porch: 160 square feet

Garage: 400 square feet

Dimensions: 44-by-58-feet

POP CULTURE

From page C1

great job," quips Fauci (the real one).

May

Who's that singing from the fifth-floor window? Every night at 7 as front-line workers are honored with cheers and honking horns, a beautiful tenor is heard in upper Manhattan singing "The Impossible Dream": It's Tony winner Brian Stokes Mitchell, just recovered from COVID-19 himself, doing his signature song.

Another artist making use of pandemic free time: Misty Copeland, American Ballet Theatre's first Black female principal dancer, brings together 32 ballerinas from 14 countries, all dancing the famous "Dying Swan" in a video for "Swans for Relief," a fundraiser for struggling dancers.

June

A new Spike Lee joint arrives at the perfect time: In a year when Black Lives Matter is forcing a rethinking of so many things, "Da 5 Bloods" looks at the Vietnam War from the oft-ignored perspective of its Black soldiers.

And in what might be the future – or near-future – of concert-going, Garth Brooks presents a one-night-only show at 300 drive-in theaters, for $100 a car. (Unlike the live, secret show Keith Urban did in May for health care workers, though, Brooks' concert is prerecorded.)

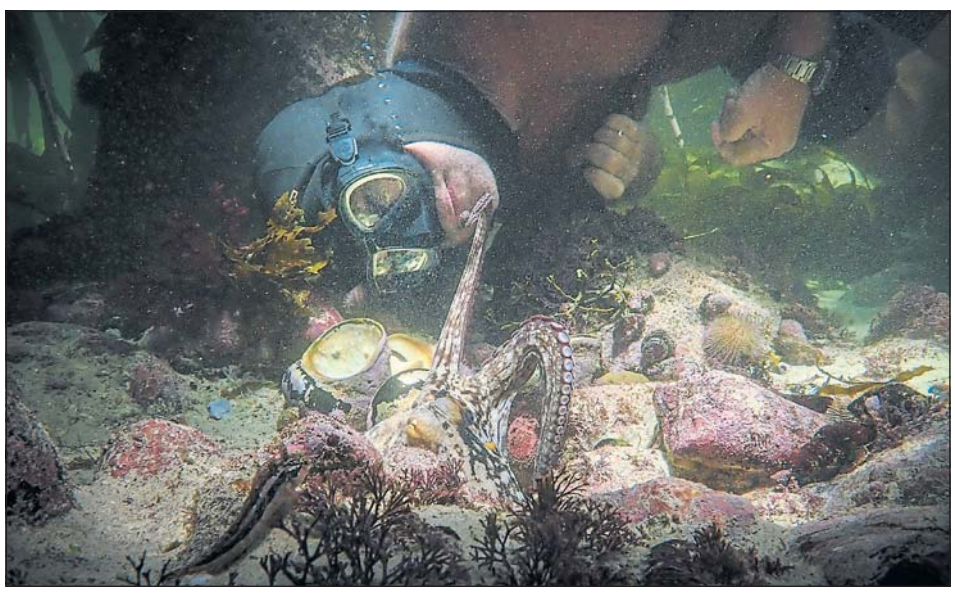
July

Independence Day barbecues may be canceled, but musical (and history) fans have reason to cheer: the live-captured film version of Broadway smash "Hamilton" is fast-tracked by more than a year to stream on Disney+. The roar of a real Broadway crowd, from performances filmed in 2016, is enough to bring a tear to a theatergoer's eye.

On a *much* smaller scale, ballet lovers are treated to a wildly inventive YouTube video featuring dancers across the globe performing "Swan Lake" in their bathtubs (Get it? Lakes?)

August

Fans are gutted by the death of Chadwick Boseman, who achieved fame with a series of star-making performances as Jackie Robinson, James Brown and Thurgood Marshall, and as groundbreaking superhero "Black Panther." Boseman dies at 43 of colon cancer, an illness he kept secret from almost everyone, making movies in between surgeries and treatments. The world mourns an actor of immense talent who, like many of his characters, radiated a regal sense of dignity.



Netflix / AP

Craig Foster interacts with an octopus in a scene from the documentary "My Octopus Teacher."

David Lee / Netflix / AP

Isiah Whitlock Jr., from left, Norm Lewis, Clarke Peters, Delroy Lindo and Jonathan Majors are shown in a scene from the Spike Lee film "Da 5 Bloods."

September

What do fashion shows look like in the pandemic era? Mostly they're virtual, but Christian Siriano invites guests to his Connecticut home for a socially distanced runway show with models in masks.

The Emmys are virtual, too, but the awkward format can't quash the ebullient celebration up in Canada for the zanily talented cast of "Schitt's Creek."

Oh, and Brad and Jen are back together! Just kidding! But they appear together in a Zoom reading of "Fast Times at Ridgemont High."

On the other side of the world (and underwater) in South Africa, we meet a glorious creature who simultaneously captures our need for escape and for emotional connection: "My Octopus Teacher" is an antidote for troubled times.

October

Oh hey, Borat. Somehow when we weren't looking, Sacha Baron Cohen was filming a sequel. It's typically outrageous and features a scene with Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani for which the word "cringeworthy" just doesn't cut it.

"David Byrne's American Utopia," a filmed version of the Broadway concert helmed by Spike Lee no less, finds the sweet spot in translating the exhilaration of live performance to the screen.

Speaking of exhilaration, try watching @420dogg face208, aka Nathan Apodaca of Idaho, peacefully skateboarding on TikTok to Fleetwood Mac's "Dreams" and drinking Cran-Raspberry juice on the way to work – a thing we somehow never knew we wanted to do.

November

The first post-election "SNL" ends with Alec Baldwin holding a sign that says "YOU'RE WELCOME!!!" – a reference to his long-running Trump impersonation (and Trump's loss).

Beyonce, already the most nominated female artist in Grammy history, scores nine more, including for "Black Parade," released on Juneteenth.

In his final screen role, Boseman fittingly soars in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" with a searing performance as a troubled jazz trumpeter.

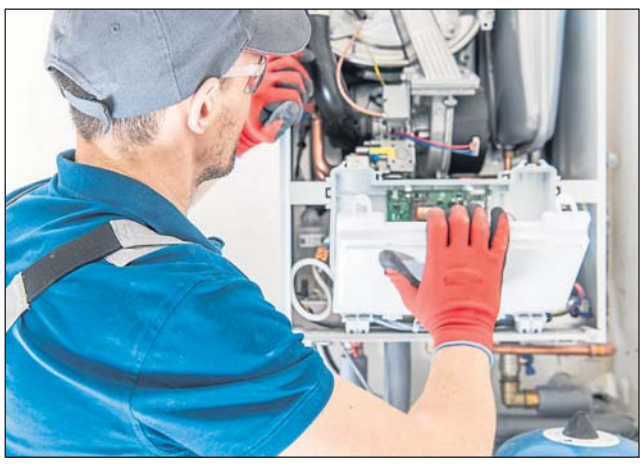
December

"My name is Elliot." Elliot Page, the Oscar-nominated actor for "Juno," announces he is trans, a landmark moment for Hollywood's trans community.

In a year with precious few blockbusters, Wonder Woman gears up to lasso end-of-year attention for its sequel, to be released simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max.

And speaking of blockbusters, how about Bob Dylan's deal: The 79-year-old bard sells his entire catalog for a sum estimated at more than $300 million. As a treacherous 2020 draws to a close, aren't we all just so ready, as Dylan was in 1964, for these times to be a-changin'?

ASK ANGIE'S LIST



Dreamstime / TNS

Regular maintenance and close attention to problems can prevent some expensive repairs down the line.

What heating problems should I watch out for this winter?

By PAUL F. P. POGUE
Angie's List (TNS)

In most parts of the nation, your heater is one of the most important appliances of your home for the next few months.

A blown-out heater can leave your family literally in the cold for hours or days during the most frigid part of the year.

Here are some tips to stay warm and toasty this winter:

Get an HVAC inspection

This usually costs about $100. Ideally, you'll have done this already. But if not, it's not too late to call an HVAC company to give it a change-of-seasons inspection, even if your heater's already been running this season.

Your technician will perform a complete inspection and tune-up of your system that will help keep it operating smoothly. Plus, if you catch developing problems early enough, you can often solve them at a much lower cost than if they trigger a major breakdown.

Don't forget to replace your filters at regular intervals, either. They play a big role in energy efficiency and operations.

Pay attention to your utility bill

Take a look at your bill each month and make sure the costs are within a normal range. If you've been in your home a while, you should have a pretty good idea of what heating will cost each month.

Many utility companies also make older bills available online – if you suspect something's up, compare this year's bill to previous years. An unexpectedly high gas or electric bill can sometimes indicate a hidden problem.

Listen and smell

The first time you start your furnace each season, it's not uncommon to smell a dusty or musty odor as the system revs up. But if the smell continues, ask a professional to take a look.

A burning odor means you should shut it off and call for help immediately. And if you smell gas, leave the home immediately and contact your fire department and gas company.

Furnaces shouldn't make much noise, either. But, moving parts eventually do wear out. Squealing or screeching sounds usually mean a blower motor is having problems. Grinding noises are signals you need immediate repair.

Pay attention to how it runs

If you have a multi-stage system, your furnace will adjust its power based on need and ensure a consistent temperature.

Single-stage systems will turn on and off more often. However, if it turns on and off frequently, you might have a problem. The thermostat might need to be recalibrated, or unseen air loss somewhere in the house is putting heat to waste.

Ask a professional for advice if your system turns on and off too often.

Fauci's 'Wear a mask' tops list of 2020 notable quotes

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — A plea from Dr. Anthony Fauci for people to "wear a mask" to slow the spread of the coronavirus tops a Yale Law School librarian's list of the most notable quotes of 2020.

The list, assembled by Fred Shapiro, an associate director at the library, is an annual update to "The Yale Book of Quotations," which was first published in 2006.

Also on the list is "I can't breathe," the plea George Floyd made repeatedly to police officers holding him down on a Minneapolis street corner.

Several quotes from the presidential campaign appear, including Joe Biden telling a student: "You're a lying dog-faced pony soldier."

Shapiro said he picks quotes that are not necessarily admirable or eloquent, but rather because they are famous or particularly revealing of the spirit of the times.

The list

1. "Wear a mask." – Dr. Anthony Fauci, CNN interview, May 21.

2. "I can't breathe." – George Floyd, plea to police officer, Minneapolis, May 25.

3. "One day – it's like a miracle – it will disappear." – President Donald Trump, referring to the coronavirus in remarks at a Black History Month reception at the White House, Feb. 27.

4. "I see the disinfectant that knocks it out in a minute, one minute. And is there a way we can do something like that by injection inside or almost a cleaning?" – Trump, in remarks at a White House Coronavirus Task Force news briefing, April 23.

5. "I will never lie to you. You have my word on that." – White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany, at her first press briefing, May 1.

6. "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed." – Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, statement dictated to granddaughter Clara Spera, September.

7. "If you have a problem figuring out whether you're for me or Trump, then you ain't Black." – Joe Biden, in an interview with "The Breakfast Club" radio program, May 22.

8. "The science should not stand in the way of this." – McEnany, referring to school reopenings in a news briefing, July 16.

9. "You're a lying dog-faced pony soldier." – Biden, in a remark to a student at a campaign event, Hampton, N.H., Feb. 9.

10. "We are all Lakers today." – Los Angeles Clippers coach Doc Rivers, in a remark to reporters after the death of Kobe Bryant, Orlando, Fla., Jan. 26.

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LEGALS

LEGALS

Notice of Public Comment Period: Pokagon Band TAS for CWA 319

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi (Pokagon Band) is opening a 30-day public comment period for its application to the Environmental Protection Agency for treatment in a similar manner as a state (TAS) for Clean Water Act (CWA) 319. Receiving TAS for CWA 319 will allow Pokagon Band to expand its nonpoint source (NPS) pollution program. The Pokagon Band will manage known NPS pollution locations on tribal trust lands and expand partnerships with local and state agencies with the NPS program.
The public comment period will begin on December 28th, 2020 and end on January 28th, 2021. Documents are available for review on the Pokagon Band's website (http://www.pokagon-band-nsn.gov/cwa-319-application-open-comment-period-dnr), and hardcopies are available upon request or via appointment at the Pokagon Band's Department of Natural Resources office. Comments can be submitted through the Pokagon Band's website or emailed to Grants@Pokagon Band-nsn.gov

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

LEGALS

City of South Haven Legal Notice

City Council meetings for 2021 will be held on the following dates beginning at 7:00 p.m. (an asterisk indicates a meeting that does not fall on its normal date due to a holiday or other scheduling reason):

January 4
January 18
February 1
February 15
March 1
March 15
April 12*
April 19
May 3
May 17
June 7
June 21
July 6*
July 19
August 2
August 16
September 7*
September 20
October 4
October 18
November 1
November 15
December 6
December 20

Planning Commission meetings for 2021 will be held on the following dates beginning at 7:00 p.m. (an asterisk indicates a meeting that does not fall on its normal date due to a holiday or other scheduling reason):

January 7
February 4
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3
July 8*
August 5
September 2
October 7
November 4

LEGALS

December 2

Due to occasional cancellations and/or rescheduling, please confirm all meeting dates and times before attending. All in-person meetings will be held at the following location:

City Hall, Council Chambers
539 Phoenix Street
South Haven, MI 49090

For the purpose of complying with state restrictions on gatherings, meetings may be conducted from remote locations via video conferencing. Instructions for attending and participating in remote meetings is available on the City's website at www.southhavenmi.gov **Changes to meeting formats may be made throughout the year as conditions warrant.**

South Haven City Hall is a Barrier-free and the City of South Haven will provide the necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services for persons with disabilities, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon seven (7) days notice to the South Haven City Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring services should contact the City Clerk by writing or calling South Haven City Hall at (269) 637-0750.

Careers are made in the Classifieds... Find One Today!

LEGALS

South Haven City Council Proceedings Regular Meeting, December 21, 2020

(These proceedings are an unapproved summary. A complete copy of the draft minutes is available at City Hall or on the City's Website at www.south-haven.com within 8 days of the meeting).

Members present: Campbell, Reeser, Schlack, Sleeper, Wilkins, Smith
Members absent: Arnold

Council Actions Taken:

Approved the agenda.

Approved the Consent Agenda as follows:

A. Approved the City Council regular meeting minutes for December 7, 2020.
B. Invoices totaling $901,451.58 for the period ending December 21, 2020 approved and forwarded to the Clerk and Treasurer for payment.
C. Approved the State of Michigan salt bid for the 2020-21 winter season with Cargill Inc. of North Olmstead, OH for 700 tons of salt at $68.18 per ton, for a total amount of $47,726.00.
D. Approved the proposed license agreements with 752 Wilson and 806 Wilson, allowing the described improvements and use of the unimproved Hubbard Street right-of-way.
E. Received an informational report regarding the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in order to meet changes to PA 197.
F. Approved a 6-month extension of an Economic Development Services Agreement with JHUDS, LLC with the same terms and conditions through July 1, 2021.
G. Set a public hearing regarding a Tasting Room License application for the Great Mead Hall and Brewing Company, LLC., to occur at the Council's regular meeting on January 4, 2021.
H. Acknowledged receipt of the following meeting minutes:
1. July 14, 2020 Parks Commission regular minutes;
2. September 16, 2020 Parks Commission special minutes;
3. October 1, 2020 Planning Commission regular minutes;
4. November 5, 2020 Planning Commission regular minutes.

Approved the proposed South Beach Final Consensus Plan, as developed by Edgewater Resources and recommended by the City's Parks Commission

Approved an agreement with Red E. Charging to install electric charging stations and authorized the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the agreement.

Tabled a proposal from Aspen Wireless for a broadband feasibility study in the amount of $32,000 until a future meeting, with intent of seeing if the surrounding townships have interest in sharing the costs.

Received a report summarizing the activities of various City departments during the 2020 calendar year.

Adjourned

Travis Sullivan
City Clerk

LEGALS

CITY OF BENTON HARBOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Benton Harbor's Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 1:00 p.m., in the Lula Lee Commission Chambers, Benton Harbor City Hall, 200 East Wall Street on proposed amendments to the City of Benton Harbor's zoning ordinance relative to the Marihuana Adult Use Establishments Ordinance. In the event that Public Act 228 of 2020 is extended due to COVID-19, the public hearing / meeting will be conducted virtually. Instructions on how to participate will be posted on the City of Benton Harbor's website, www.bh-city.us.

The draft ordinance is available in the Office of the City Clerk, located at 200 E. Wall Street, Benton Harbor, MI.; between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. You may request to obtain a copy of the draft ordinance by contacting City Clerk Thompson via email kthompson@bhcity.us or telephone 269-927-8408. Additionally, written comments can be submitted via email to kthompson@bhcity.us or delivered to the drop box in front of City Hall, located at 200 E. Wall Street, Benton Harbor, Michigan. The deadline for submission is Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

The City of Benton Harbor does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to public meetings. Auxiliary aids or services will be made available for assistance of individuals with speech, vision, hearing or other impairments if the City of Benton Harbor is provided with notice not less than one week (7) days prior to the meeting time. Individuals desiring such assistance should contact the City Clerk at 269-927-8408.

All interested parties are urged to attend.

Kimberly Thompson,
Benton Harbor
City Clerk
12/02/2020

LEGALS

CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City Council of the City of South Haven, Van Buren and Allegan Counties, Michigan will hold a public hearing regarding an application for a Tasting Room License by The Great Mead Hall and Brewing Company, LLC to be located at 201 Center Street. The hearing will be held on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. during a remote meeting of the South Haven City Council via video conferencing.

Due to public safety concerns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council meeting will be conducted using videoconferencing. Instructions for participating in the conference are available on the City's website. The City Hall building at 539 Phoenix Street will not be open to the public for the purpose of attending the hearing.

This notice is published by: City of South Haven
539 Phoenix Street
South Haven, MI 49090
(269) 637-0700

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Special Education Paraprofessional

River Valley School District
Employment info at: www.river valleyschools.org
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Join our crew! The area's leading fresh produce food service distributor has both CDL and non-CDL positions available. Deliver to local restaurants and institutions. Must have a good driving record, and be able to lift product. Home every night. Good benefits. Apply at Shelton's Farm Market, 1832 S 11th Street, Niles MI.

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This is a third shift position, approximately 3-7am, Tuesday-Saturday. Must have valid driver's license and have a clean MVR.

Job Type: Part-time

To Apply: Contact Bruce
btheisen@heraldpalladium.com
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ANNOUNCEMENT

Mccoy Brother's Jewelers will resume business when the vaccine arrives and is administered to the public at large.
Hang in there, folks.
Mccoy Brother's will reopen at that time, for the final run, of about one year.

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Call (269) 369-4545 or visit
DickinsonEstates.com

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26

Set your expectations high, and don't give up until you reach your goal. A positive change is heading your way, and you'll have plenty of opportunities as the new year unfolds. A chance to enhance your skills, knowledge and relationships with like-minded people will encourage you to branch out and see what life has to offer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Take on new projects and clear space that will make it possible to turn something you desire into a reality. Leave nothing to chance. Figure out what needs to be done and do it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Aim to create a safe and happy environment conducive to good health, fitness and financial stability. Times are changing, and it's essential to secure your position and future.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Don't convince yourself of something without verifying the facts. Be smart regarding an offer that sounds too good to be true. A creative outlet will ease stress. A change is coming.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Do something that lifts your spirit. A positive change will take work, but in the end, it will be worthwhile. A gift you receive will ease financial stress. Make romance a priority.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) A change of scenery will pique your interest regarding something you want to pursue. Whether you travel physically or digitally, the result will lead you in a positive direction.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Engage in something that encourages you to use your skills in new and exciting ways. Touch base with someone who shares your interests. Nurture important relationships and make improvements.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Pay more attention to the people you love. Make plans that will bring you all closer. Family fun will help put the past to rest and encourage you to engage in projects that everyone enjoys.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't take anyone or anything for granted. Be observant, consider your options and do what is safe and best for you. Refuse to let your ego get in the way of common sense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Step up and take charge. Do whatever it takes to maintain stability. Don't let someone's uncertainty or confusion affect your feelings or plans. Put your health and emotional well-being first.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Above all, do your best to keep the peace. Don't argue with someone who is stubborn and will never see things your way. Make a positive change at home. Do what you do best.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) A lively and entertaining discussion will offer information and insight into a unique way to give your financial situation a boost. A creative idea will improve your living space.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Misinformation will lead to assumptions. Get your facts straight before you share anything. Put more time and effort into personal gains, self-improvement, and physical and emotional well-being.

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

Embrace change. Lead the way with honesty and integrity. Choose to calm things down and to distance yourself from chaos and unruly individuals. Concentrate on what's important to you and how best to use your attributes to bring about positive and meaningful change.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A problem will surface if you get into a debate. Choose your words wisely, and do your best not to fuel the fire. Stick close to home, and make improvements that will please those you live with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) The adjustments you make at home will help you deal with an unstable situation. An optimistic attitude and the use of your imagination will capture the interest of someone who has something to offer.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Take precautions. Refuse to let an emotional incident put you in a vulnerable position. Be smart. Make adjustments that protect you from loss, illness or injury.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) An opportunity will help you switch lanes professionally. Don't hesitate. The more aggressive you are, the easier it will be to get what you want. Focus on positive but forceful action.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Emotions and money don't mix. A bargain is only to your advantage if you need the product. Use discretion when it comes to financial matters, and be smart about social distancing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Pay attention to what's going on around you. Learning something new will give you renewed motivation. A romantic gesture will enhance a meaningful relationship.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) A positive attitude will improve your chance to get your way. You can resolve a financial issue if you discuss solutions with an expert or partner. Be observant.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Take note of what others say, but do what suits you best. Offer others the same freedom you want in return. Romance will enrich your life. Work hard to reach your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Refuse to let emotional issues ruin your day. Distance yourself from anyone out to cause problems. Focus on what you can do to make your life better. Make changes that are conducive to pursuing your dreams.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Stick to a budget. You may want to take advantage of a sale, but don't go into debt. Be smart regarding money; avoid criticism and complaints from someone affected by your lavish behavior.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Pick up the phone and connect with someone you haven't heard from in a while. A change at home will give you the freedom to follow your heart and dreams.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Keep an open mind, but don't let someone push you in a direction that will cause discord at home. Problems will prevail if you allow emotional manipulation to interfere in meaningful relationships.

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CROSSWORD

Crossword Answers D4

Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

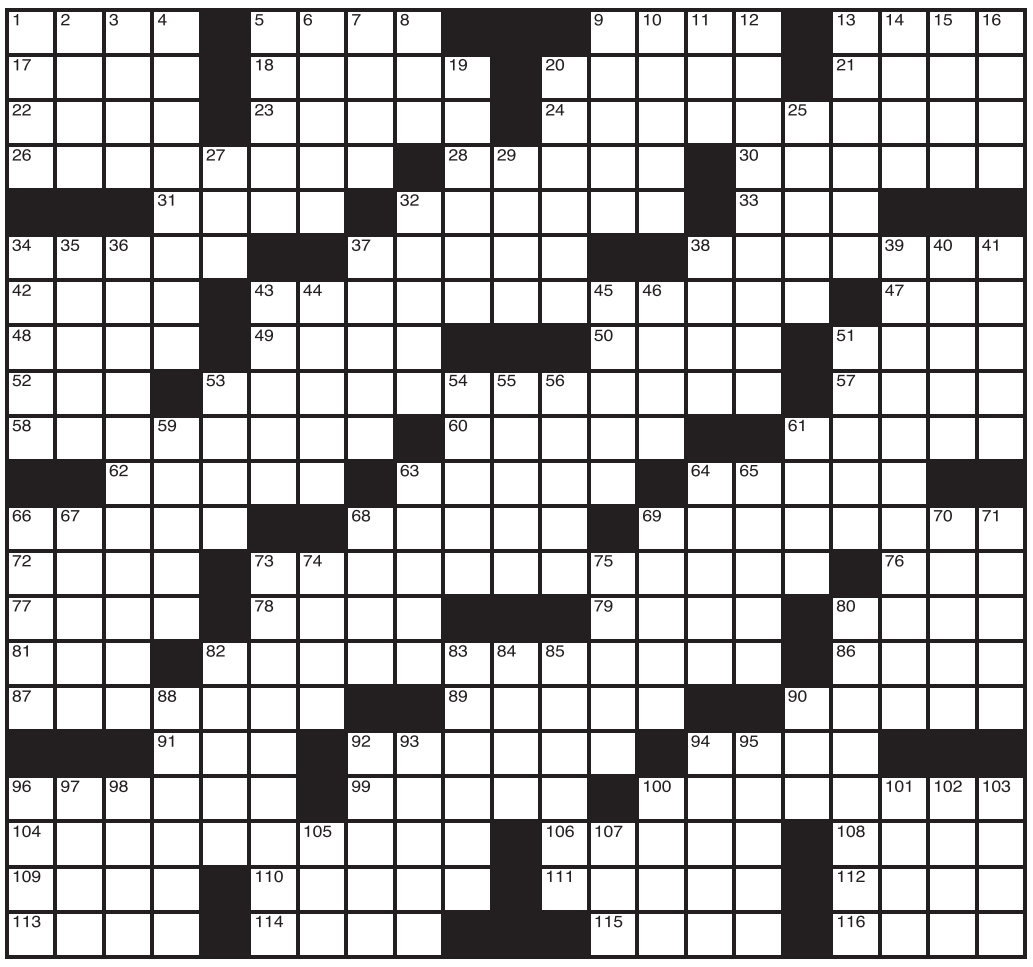
"EYE EXAM" By MIKE PELUSO

ACROSS

1 Bend in pointe shoes
5 Style
9 Dark film genre
13 __ Sticks: drain-cleaning aid
17 Sweet-talk
18 Barn-raising group
20 Worth a rave review, in show biz
21 University near Durham, NC
22 Half-off sale acronym
23 Destination for aficionados
24 Workplace movie screen?
26 Small Kia SUV
28 Street show
30 "Dust in the Wind" rockers
31 Tampico abode
32 Silas with a loom
33 Chicago-to-Indianapolis dir.
34 Good news, in a metaphor
37 Chill-inducing
38 Prepared for surgery, in a way
42 Titles for attys.
43 Apple product for unmarried men?
47 Frites seasoning
48 Generate, with "up"
49 "I Left Something Turned __ Home": 1997 Trace Adkins hit
50 Côte d'__
51 Court game word
52 Actress Lupino
53 List of PGA players with pictorial links to their bios?
57 Fist bumps
58 Action movie staple
60 Worked with a crew, maybe
61 Utah range
62 Upper class
63 Graceful
64 Checked out in advance
66 Trojan king
68 Some steaks
69 Contentious filings
72 Swimsuit designer Gernreich
73 Order to a construction worker?
76 __ polloi
77 Utah Valley University city
78 Corrida cries
79 Diamond's opposite, on the Mohs scale
80 Parachute necessity
81 Ovine cry
82 Apple media player for silly songs?
86 __ facto
87 E.T.'s Earth pal
89 Eat away
90 Day of the PGA
91 Arrest
92 "Which one will it be?"
94 Cheater's device
96 Emulate Earhart
99 "Silent Night" et al.
100 The NFL had two of them in 2018
104 Brew with a hint of chocolate?
106 Gets a ride, but not a Lyft
108 Jazz club group
109 Cleveland's lake
110 Dorm diet staple
111 Puerto Rico's third-largest city
112 U. of Maryland athlete
113 Like Span. o-ending nouns
114 Nor. neighbor
115 Test for jrs.
116 Summer quaffs

DOWN

1 EPA-banned toxins
2 Chicago district, with "the"
3 "Othello" villain
4 Event in a classic William Peter Blatty novel
5 Half a '60s quartet
6 Last of 24
7 Cut into cubes
8 Upper left key
9 Like some ATM withdrawals
10 Proposal
11 "__ had known ... "
12 Standouts in a field
13 One with net income?
14 Charity
15 Weather-monitoring gp.
16 "Devil Inside" band
19 African capital once known as Salisbury
20 Island east of Sumatra
25 Alleviated
27 It may be an X or an O
29 Seed pod
32 Conductor Zubin
34 "M*A*S*H" figure
35 Vitamin spec
36 Perfect one of three meals?
37 Bitcoin, e.g.
38 Twirled
39 Kauai breakfast restaurants?
40 Vaulted
41 Donovan of "Clueless"
43 Title Kazakh in a 2006 spoof
44 Win by __
45 Beat anxiously
46 Brand that once sported a crocodile
51 Bye that's bid
53 Stiffly proper
54 "True dat!"
55 Intimidate
56 Type of whiskey
59 Assert
61 Cold War enemy
63 "All That Jazz" choreographer
64 Suspension bridge support
65 Surveillance plane acronym
66 Investigation
67 Like much of Nebraska
68 Form of security
69 Balaban of "Definitely, Maybe"
70 Trunk
71 Lebanese port
73 Dad's and Mug
74 Much
75 Chopin work
80 Holey Italian bread
82 Reluctant
83 Loyal servant
84 Press
85 50-50 chance
88 "Hang on ... "
90 It may be up, with "the"
92 Opine, with "in"
93 Promoted to excess
94 Around
95 Trip odometer function
96 Throaty attention-getter
97 Aloe __
98 Flower from the Greek for "rainbow"
100 Second place?
101 "A horse is a horse" horse
102 Cork's home
103 Absorbs, with "up"
105 Deviate from a course
107 Conk



12/27/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

We Got 'Em Right Here In Our Classifeds!

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE
WATER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS
TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BENTON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Benton (the "Township") intends to issue bonds, in one or more series, in an amount of not to exceed $10,000,000 (the "Bonds").

The Bonds shall be issued to pay the cost to design, purchase, acquire and construct improvements to the Township's Water System, including without limitation, construction and reconstruction of water transmission, distribution, storage and treatment facilities, the restoration of streets, rights-of-way and easements affected by the improvements and related facilities, as well as all work, equipment and appurtenances necessary or incidental to these improvements, and to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds and capitalized interest, if any.

The Bonds of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law payable over not more than forty (40) years from the date of issuance of the Bonds. The Bonds shall be issued pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the Bonds shall be payable from the net revenues derived from the operation of the Water System. In addition, the Bonds may be secured by the full faith and credit of the Township as limited by applicable constitutional and statutory limitations on the taxing power of the Township.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The Bonds will be issued without a vote of the electors approving such Bonds, unless, within 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice of Intent, a petition, signed by not less than 10% of the registered electors residing within the limits of the Township shall have been filed with the Clerk of the Township or other recording officer of the Township requesting a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the Bonds. If such a petition is filed, the Bonds shall not be issued until approved by the vote of a majority of the electors residing within the Township qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 33 of Act 94.

Carolyn Phillips, Clerk

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE
SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS
TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BENTON

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township Board of the Charter Township of Benton (the "Township") intends to issue bonds, in one or more series, in an amount of not to exceed $3,000,000 (the "Bonds").

The Bonds shall be issued to pay the cost to design, purchase, acquire and construct improvements to the Township's Sanitary Sewer System, including without limitation, gravity sewer main, manhole, lift station, and force main construction and reconstruction, the restoration of streets, rights-of-way and easements affected by the improvements and related facilities, as well as all work, equipment and appurtenances necessary or incidental to these improvements, and to pay the costs of issuing the Bonds and capitalized interest, if any.

The Bonds of this issue shall mature within the maximum terms permitted by law with interest on the unpaid balance at a rate not to exceed the maximum rate permitted by law payable over not more than forty (40) years from the date of issuance of the Bonds. The Bonds shall be issued pursuant to Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT

The principal of and interest on the Bonds shall be payable from the net revenues derived from the operation of the Sanitary Sewer System. In addition, the Bonds may be secured by the full faith and credit of the Township as limited by applicable constitutional and statutory limitations on the taxing power of the Township.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

The Bonds will be issued without a vote of the electors approving such Bonds, unless, within 45 days from the date of publication of this Notice of Intent, a petition, signed by not less than 10% of the registered electors residing within the limits of the Township shall have been filed with the Clerk of the Township or other recording officer of the Township requesting a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the Bonds. If such a petition is filed, the Bonds shall not be issued until approved by the vote of a majority of the electors residing within the Township qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

This Notice is published pursuant to the requirements of Section 33 of Act 94.

Carolyn Phillips, Clerk

SELL YOUR ITEMS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!

...BECAUSE MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES!

Answer To Today's Puzzle

P	L	I	E		M	O	D	E				N	O	I	R		S	A	N	I
C	O	A	X		A	M	I	S	H		B	O	F	F	O		E	L	O	N
B	O	G	O		M	E	C	C	A		O	F	F	I	C	E	I	M	A	X
S	P	O	R	T	A	G	E		R	A	R	E	E		K	A	N	S	A	S
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P	R	I	A	M			L	O	I	N	S		L	A	W	S	U	I	T	S
R	U	D	I		R	A	I	S	E	T	H	E	I	B	A	R		H	O	I
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M	A	S	C		S	W	E	D				P	S	A	T		A	D	E	S

12/27/20

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SIEMANS IN BRIDGMAN

BUILT FOR THE HOLIDAYS SALES EVENT

Ford

2020 FORD F-550 4X4 DUMP TRUCK

OXFORD WHITE, 6.7 POWER STROKE DIESEL, PAYLOAD PLUS UPGRADE, POWER WINDOWS AND LOCKS, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, SNOW PLOW PREP PACKAGE, VOTH DUMP BODY, AND MUCH MORE! F20380

MSRP	$57,720
ADD FOR VOTH DUMP BODY	+18,386
SUBTOTAL	$76,106
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,854
FORD F-SERIES RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 500
FORD COMMERCIAL CONNECTION UPFIT CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $70,752

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD TRANSIT 15 PASSENGER XLT WAGON

AGATE BLACK METALLIC, PRIVACY GLASS, LIMITED SLIP REAR AXLE, WHEEL SIMULATORS ADDED, FORD CO-PILOT 360, REAR VIEW CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! F20297

MSRP	$49,610
ADD FOR WHEEL SIMULATORS	+ 888
SUBTOTAL	$50,498
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,003
FORD SELECT INVENTORY CUSTOMER CASH	- 750
FORD RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 1,750
FORD HOLIDAY TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
FORD COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $43,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT 4X4

VELOCITY BLUE, SPORT APPEARANCE PACKAGE, LED BOX LIGHTING, POWER SLIDING REAR WINDOW, 2.7 V6 ECOBOOST ENGINE, NAVIGATION, TRAILER HITCH, REVERSE SENSING SYSTEM, AND MUCH MORE! F20202

MSRP	$50,105
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,110
FORD F-SERIES RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 2,500
FORD SELECT INVENTORY CUSTOMER CASH	- 750
FORD BONUS CASH	- 1,500
FORD HOLIDAY TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
FORD COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $40,245

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD ESCAPE SE ALL WHEEL DRIVE

DARK PERSIAN GREEN METALLIC, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REAR VIEW CAMERA, KEYLESS KEYPAD, FORD CO-PILOT 360, 1.5 ECOBOOST ENGINE, AND MUCH MORE! F20302

MSRP	$29,450
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,255
FORD CREDIT RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 700
FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
FORD CAR TO ESCAPE OWNER LOYALTY*	- 500
FORD RETAIL TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 2,000

SALE PRICE* $23,995

PLUS 0% FOR 60 MONTHS (WITH APPROVED CREDIT)

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)

2020 FORD F350 XLT DUALLY PICKUP

AGATE BLACK, 6.7 POWER STROKE DIESEL, 4.10 LIMITED SLIP REAR AXLE, FOG LAMPS, REVERSE VEHICLE AID SENSOR, POWER SEAT, REAR DEFROSTER, 5TH WHEEL HITCH PREP PACKAGE, POWER SCOPE TRAILER TOW MIRRORS, 17 INCH FORGED ALUMINUM WHEELS, LED BOX LIGHTING, UPFITTER SWITCHES, REMOTE START, AND MUCH MORE! F20458

MSRP	$60,440
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,945
FORD F-SERIES RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 500

SALE PRICE* $57,995

2020 FORD EDGE SEL ALL WHEEL DRIVE

RAPID RED, ACTIVE X SEAT MATERIAL HEATED FRONT SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, VOICE ACTIVATED NAVIGATION, HANDS FREE LIFTGATE, REMOTE START, WIRELESS CHARGING PAD, PANORAMIC VISTA ROOF, 18 INCH BRIGHT MACHINED ALUMINUM WHEELS, AND MUCH MORE! F20397

LEASE FOR $269 PER MONTH*

36 MONTH LEASE WITH APPROVED CREDIT, 10,500 MILES PER YEAR, $3,100 DUE AT SIGNING, PLUS 1ST PAYMENT, TAX, TITLE, DOC FEE, PLATE FEE, SECURITY DEPOSIT WAIVED, *MUST QUALIFY FOR FORD RCL RENEWAL, FORD HOLIDAY TRADE IN ASSISTANCE LEASE CASH & FORD EDGE TO EDGE RCL RENEWAL, OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/20

2020 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4

RAPID RED METALLIC, ACTIVE X SEAT MATERIAL, REMOTE START, POWER PASSENGER SEAT, TWIN PANEL MOONROOF, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HEATED FIRST AND SECOND ROW SEATS, AND MUCH MORE! F20450

MSRP	$47,235
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,740
FORD CREDIT RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 2,700
FORD RETAIL TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 2,000
FORD HOLIDAY TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $39,795

PLUS 0% FOR 72 MONTHS (WITH APPROVED CREDIT)

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)

2021 FORD BRONCO SPORT BIG BEND ALL WHEEL DRIVE

IT'S HERE!

SHADOW BLACK, 1.5 ECOBOOST ENGINE, CLASS II TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, FORD CO-PILOT 360 ASSIST PLUS, AND MUCH MORE! MUST SEE! F21013

MSRP $30,945

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SIEMANS IN BRIDGMAN

BIG FINISH 2020

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM

2021 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED 4X4

OLIVE GREEN, LEATHER SEATS, TOUCHSCREEN RADIO, VENTILATED SEATS, NAVIGATION, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS PATH DETECTION, BACK-UP CAMERA, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REMOTE START, AND MUCH MORE! C21040

MSRP	$33,950
EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 2,257
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$31,693
REBATE	- 2,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 750
BONUS CASH	- 250
NATIONAL BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$28,193
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $27,193

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED X 4X4

DIAMOND BLACK CRYSTAL, 20 INCH WHEELS, BI-XENON HID HEADLAMPS, SPORT HOOD, NAVIGATION, POWER LIFTGATE, HEATED SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, PARKVIEW REAR BACK-UP CAMERA, PARKSENSE REAR PARK-ASSIST WITH STOP, BLIND-SPOT AND CROSS-PATH DETECTION, AND MUCH MORE! C20291

MSRP	$49,685
EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 4,198
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$45,487
REBATE	- 750
CHRYSLER CAPITAL RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
NATIONAL RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 500
BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$42,737
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LEASE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $41,737

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4

BLACK CLEAR COAT, HEATED FRONT SEATS, TOUCH SCREEN, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, BACK-UP CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! C20176

MSRP	$28,875
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 1,790
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$27,085
REBATE	- 1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 750
NATIONAL BONUS CASH	- 500
BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$23,835
2020 RETURNING LESSEE *	- 500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $22,835

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE PLUS 4X4

DIAMOND BLACK CRYSTAL, ALTITUDE PACKAGE, 18 INCH GLOSS BLACK 5-SPOKE WHEELS, TOUCH SCREEN RADIO, POWER SEAT, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS PATH DETECTION, BACK-UP CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! C20265

MSRP	$32,030
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 1,993
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$30,037
REBATE	- 1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 750
RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 750
BONUS CASH	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$26,537
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $25,537

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 RAM 2500 CREW CAB 4X4

BUSINESS LINK ON THE JOB BUSINESS OWNERS GET MORE! ASK HOW!

BLACK, 6.4 V8 ENGINE, HEAVY DUTY SNOW PLOW PREP PACKAGE, CHROME APPEARANCE GROUP, ANTI-SPIN REAR AXLE, REAR WINDOW DEFROSTER, TOUCH SCREEN AND MUCH MORE! C20140

MSRP	$44,725
EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 4,424
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$40,301
BONUS CASH	- 1,000
RAM BONUS COUPONS	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$38,801
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $37,801

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 RAM 1500 CREW CAB LARAMIE 4X4

BUSINESS LINK ON THE JOB BUSINESS OWNERS GET MORE! ASK HOW!

HYDRO BLUE PEARL, LEATHER BUCKET SEATS, SPORT APPEARANCE PACKAGE, 5.7 HEMI V8 ENGINE, NAVIGATION, WHEEL TO WHEEL SIDE STEPS, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, ANTI-SPIN REAR AXLE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, 20 INCH WHEELS, SPORT PERFORMANCE HOOD, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS PATH DETECTION, AND MUCH MORE! C20198

MSRP	$57,125
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 6,835
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$50,290
CHRYSLER CAPITAL RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 500
RAM BONUS CASH COUPONS	- 500
TRUCK OWNER CONQUEST RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$48,290
CONQUEST LEASE CASH*	- 500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $47,290

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 DODGE JOURNEY

PITCH BLACK, BLACK TOP PACKAGE, BLACK WHEELS, 3-ZONE TEMP CONTROL, POWER SEAT, TOUCH SCREEN RADIO, 7-PASSENGER SEATING, SATELLITE RADIO, AND MUCH MORE! C20134

MSRP	$27,230
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 1,595
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$25,635
REBATE	- 1,250
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 1,000
CONQUEST TRADE-IN BONUS CASH*	- 2,500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$19,885
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
CONQUEST LEASE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $18,885

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 RAM 5500 4X4 FLATBED STAKE TRUCK WITH LIFT

BUSINESS LINK ON THE JOB BUSINESS OWNERS GET MORE! ASK HOW!

BRIGHT WHITE, 6.4 V8 ENGINE, 16 FOOT PLATFORM FLATBED WITH STAKE RACKS, POWER LIFTGATE, CHROME APPEARANCE PACKAGE, POWER WINDOWS AND LOCKS, INTEGRATED VOICE COMMAND WITH BLUE TOOTH, AND MUCH MORE! C20253

MSRP	$44,300
ADD FOR STAKE BODY AND LIFTGATE	+13,629
SUBTOTAL	$57,929
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,934
REBATE	- 500
ON THE JOB COMMERCIAL UPFIT*	- 1,000
COMMERCIAL TRUCK SEASON BONUS CASH*	- 500
RAM COUPONS	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$52,495
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $51,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)

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Siemans IN BRIDGMAN

45th ANNIVERSARY USED VEHICLE SALE

2012 HONDA CIVIC LX

1.8 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Styled Wheel Covers, 146K Miles, Power Windows, CD-Player, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked, Gray, U20140A

NOW $7,558

2016 MERCEDES 4MATIC GLE350 AWD

3.5 EFI Engine, 7 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 71K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seating, Power Dual Panel Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Palladium Silver, F20388A

Was $27,964 NOW $26,915

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 33K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Moon Roof, Touchscreen Display, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Rear Park Assist, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Billet Silver U20174

Was $31,951 NOW $27,799

2017 HONDA ACCORD EX

2.4 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Aluminum Wheels, 26K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Silver, F20420A

Was $20,884 NOW $18,502

2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 5 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 73K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, 3-Piece Hard Top, Heated Front Seats, Touchscreen Display, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked, Black U20176

Was $31,749 NOW $27,136

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 37K Miles, Remote Start, Power Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Billet Silver U20181

Was $31,228 NOW $28,880

2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 33K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Reverse Park Assist with Stop, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Velvet Red, C20223A

NOW $28,783

2017 FORD EXPLORER PLATINUM 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 30K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Front and Rear View Cameras, Lane-Keeping System, Active Park Assist, Reverse Sensing System, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Package, Ford Certified! Shadow Black C20288A

Was $35,989 NOW $33,935

2013 FORD EDGE SE

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 91K Miles, SYNC, CD-Player, Power Windows and Doors, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Tuxedo Black, F21006A

NOW $11,587

2015 INFINITI QX70 AWD

3.7 EFI Engine, 7 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 66K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Seating, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Back-Up Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Liquid Platinum, C21009A

NOW $23,997

2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 65K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Side Side Doors, DVD Entertainment System, Reverse Park Assist with Stop, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Chrysler Certified! Granite, P20104A

NOW $23,927

2019 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 10K Miles, Security Cover, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Heated Front Seats, Dynamic Hitch Assist, Pre-Collision Assist, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Ruby Red, P20399A

Was $39,995 NOW $37,407

2019 FORD F-150 LARIAT SUPERCREW DIESEL 4X4

3.0 V6 EFI Turbo Diesel Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 9K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Chrome Step Bars, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Memory Power Adjust Pedals, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moon Roof, Blind Spot Information System, Reverse Sensing System, Trailer Tow Package, Trailer Tow Monitor, Trailer Back Up Assist, Smart Trailer Tow Connector, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Ruby Red C20246A

Was $54,990 NOW $51,403

2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING-L PLUS

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 51K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Side Side Doors, Power Lift Gate, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Reverse Park Assist, Rear View Camera, DVD Entertainment Center, Remote Keyless Entry System, Chrysler Certified! Tusk White, C20212A

Was $26,811 NOW $22,225

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCAB 4X4

5.0 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 42K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Security Cover, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Magnetic, U20210

NOW $33,987

2019 FORD F-150 LARIAT SUPERCREW 4X4

5.0 V8 EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 31K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Memory Power Adjust Pedals, Heated Steering Wheel, 2 nd Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moon Roof, 360 Degree Camera, Pre-Collision Assist, Blind Spot Monitor with Trailer Towing Monitor, Smart Trailer Tow Connector, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Agate Black, C21013A

NOW $47,373

2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LIMITED AWD

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Chrome Wheels, 30K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, Adaptive Cruise Control, Cross Traffic Alert, Blind Spot Monitor, Lane Keeping Assist, Rear Park Assist, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Pre-Dawn Gray Mica, C20303A

NOW $34,312

2019 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 13K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Security Cover, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Pre-Collision Assist, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Agate Black, U20143A

NOW $40,498

2017 FORD FOCUS SEL HATCHBACK

2.0 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 58K Miles, Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Kona Blue, M20086A

Was $13,995 NOW $13,495

2016 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 55K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Dual Panel Panoramic Moon Roof, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Group IV, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Brilliant Black, C20306A

Was $30,663 NOW $28,520

2017 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT 4X4

5.3 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 45K Miles, Remote Start, Bed Liner, Running Boards, Power Driver's Seat, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Gray, U20206

NOW $32,679

2018 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 15K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Running Boards, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20316A

Was $39,995 NOW $39,369

2015 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROAD

2.4 EFI Engine, 4 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 87K Miles, Power Driver's Seat, Leather Trimmed Seating, Three Zone Temp Control, Touchscreen Display, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Vice White, F20334A

Was $13,904 NOW $12,483

2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 35K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Dual Panel Moon Roof, Blind Spot Information System, Forward and Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Hands Free Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20219A

NOW $31,973

2017 KIA SORENTO LX AWD

2.4 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 54K Miles, Cloth Leather Trimmed Seats, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Snow White Pearl, Car Smart Checked! F20446A

NOW $18,980

2014 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT SE

1.8 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 156K Miles, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! White

Was $9,822 NOW $7,998

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 42K Miles, Remote Start, CD-Player, Power Driver's Seat, Power Slide Side Doors, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Powertrain Factory Warranty! White Knuckle S20013

Was $20,500 NOW $18,995

2018 BUICK REGAL SPORTBACK ESSENCE

2.0 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 28K Miles, Remote Start, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Auto Climate Control, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Quicksilver Metallic, C20202A

NOW $20,989

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCAB 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 49K Miles, Security Cover, Bed Liner Mat, Running Boards, Remote Start, Navigation, Trailer Tow Group, Pro Trailer Back-Up Assist, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, SYNC 3, Power Heated Front Seats, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black F20376A

Was $34,980 NOW $30,891

2018 HONDA FIT EX HATCHBACK, GRAY

1.5 EFI Engine, CVT Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 44K Miles, Power Moon Roof, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Gray, F20375A

Was $16,357 NOW $14,896

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN GT

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 46K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Seating, Heated Steering Wheel, Stow 'N Go Seats, Auto Climate Control, Power Slide Side Doors, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Granite S20012

Was $20,995 NOW $19,995

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Tech Gray Aluminum Wheels, 50K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Moon Roof, Touchscreen Display, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Park Assist, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Diamond Black, U20178

Was $32,380 Now $28,469

2016 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

5.0 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 45K Miles, Remote Start, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Trailer Tow Group, Pro Trailer Back Up Assist, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Blue Jeans, F20436A

Was $34,552 NOW $33,305

2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE AWD

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 24K Miles, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross Traffic Alert, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! PreDawn Gray Mica, C20227A

Was $33,226 NOW $31,298

2017 FORD EXPLORER PLATINUM 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Machined Face Wheels, 58K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, 3rd Row Power-Fold Seats, Panoramic Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, 180 Degree Front Camera, Lane Keeping System, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! White Platinum, F20437A

Was $33,821 NOW $32,771

2017 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM

2.0 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Less Than 15K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Auto Climate Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Reverse Sensing System, Active Park Assist System, Rear View Camera, Hands Free Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Magnetic, F20400A

Was $21,455 NOW $19,980

2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 65K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheels, Auto Climate Control, Twin Panel Moon Roof, Forward and Reverse Sensing System, Blind Spot Information System, Back-Up Camera, Hands Free Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! White Platinum, C20076A

Was $27,999 NOW $24,929

2015 GMC YUKON DENALI 4X4

6.2 V8 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 58K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Running Boards, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, 2nd Heated Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Moon Roof, DVD Entertainment System, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Black, C20305A

Was $40,827 NOW $39,156

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 36K Miles, Chrome Step Bars, Power Driver' Seat, Power Adjust Pedals, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20162A

Was $36,625 NOW $34,907

2018 FORD EDGE TITANIUM AWD

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 24K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Panoramic Moon Roof, Adaptive Cruise Control, Collision Warning, Lane Keeping System, Front 180 Degree Camera, Blind Spot Monitor, Reverse Sensing System, Active Park Assist, Hands Free Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Blue Metallic, F20463A

NOW $29,918

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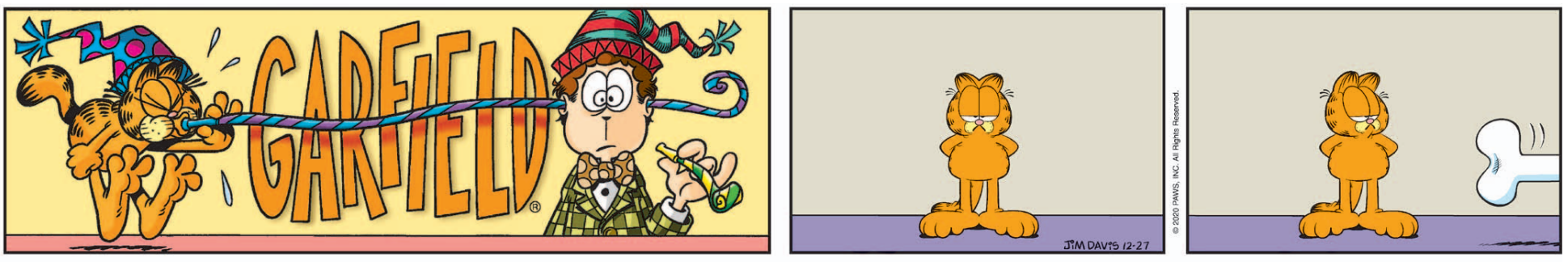
Weekend Comics

DEC. 26-27, 2020

OKAY, GUYS, WE NEED TO GET THIS PLACE PICKED UP!
YEAH! CHRISTMAS WAS TWO DAYS AGO. LET'S GET BUSY!
THERE'S LOTS TO DO, BUT IF EVERYBODY PITCHES IN, IT WON'T TAKE TOO LONG.
babyblues.com
©2020, BABY BLUES BROS LLC. DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
I EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO SEE MY FEET BY THIS AFTERNOON!
HAS ANYBODY SEEN WREN?
12-27
KIRKMAN & SCOTT



DILBERT
by SCOTT ADAMS
dilbert.com
LET'S SCHEDULE A FOLLOW-UP CALL.
DO YOU PREFER ZOOM, FACETIME, SIGNAL, WHATSAPP, OR VOICE CALL?
ZOOM.
HOW ABOUT NEXT TUESDAY AT 10 A.M. MY TIME, WHICH IS 1 P.M. YOUR TIME?
I'LL BE ON THE ROAD THEN, SO YOUR 10 A.M. WILL BE MY NOON.
Twitter: @scottadamssays
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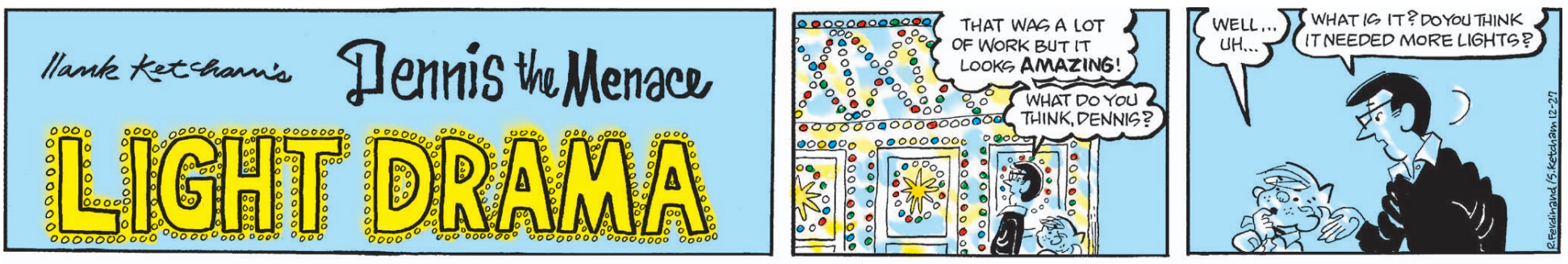
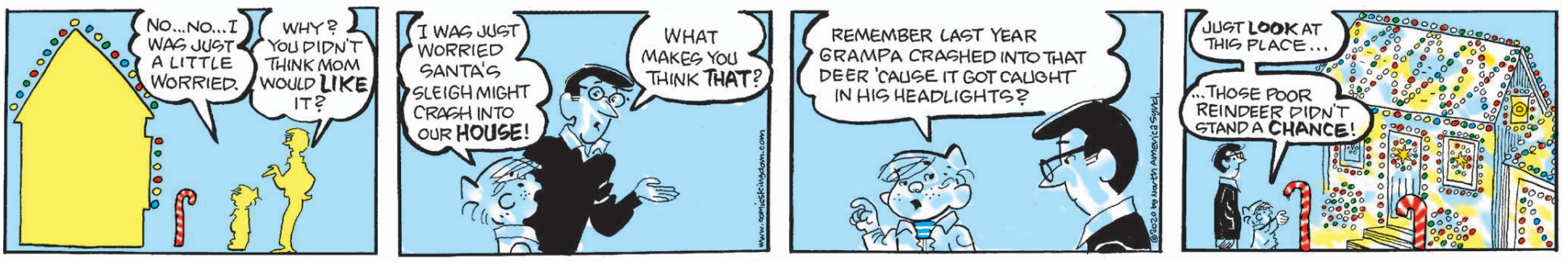
BUT THAT'S AFTER THE TIME CHANGE.
AND I CAN'T REMEMBER IF I'M GOING TO A PLACE THAT CHANGE THEIR CLOCKS.
WHY DON'T WE SKIP THE WHOLE THING BECAUSE THE CALL WE ARE SCHEDULING PROBABLY WON'T BE ANY MORE USEFUL THAN THIS ONE.
LET US NEVER SPEAK OF THIS AGAIN.
12/27/20
Dilbert.com


Hank Ketcham's
Dennis the Menace
LIGHT DRAMA
THAT WAS A LOT OF WORK BUT IT LOOKS AMAZING!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DENNIS?
WELL... UH...
WHAT IS IT? DO YOU THINK IT NEEDED MORE LIGHTS?
©Fitzgerald/S.Ketcham 12-27


NO...NO...I WAS JUST A LITTLE WORRIED.
WHY? YOU DIDN'T THINK MOM WOULD LIKE IT?
I WAS JUST WORRIED SANTA'S SLEIGH MIGHT CRASH INTO OUR HOUSE!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
www.comicskingdom.com
REMEMBER LAST YEAR GRAMPA CRASHED INTO THAT DEER 'CAUSE IT GOT CAUGHT IN HIS HEADLIGHTS?
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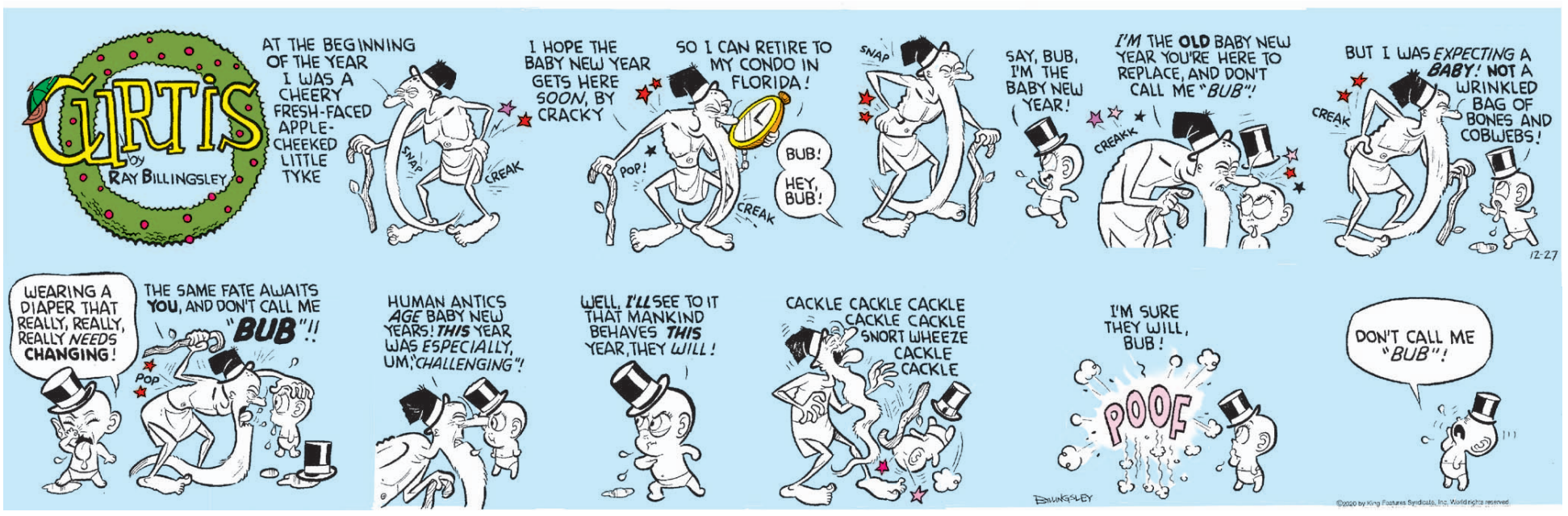
JUST LOOK AT THIS PLACE...
...THOSE POOR REINDEER DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE!


CURTIS
by RAY BILLINGSLEY
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR I WAS A CHEERY FRESH-FACED APPLE-CHEEKED LITTLE TYKE
SNAP
CREAK
I HOPE THE BABY NEW YEAR GETS HERE SOON, BY CRACKY
SO I CAN RETIRE TO MY CONDO IN FLORIDA!
POP!
CREAK
BUB!
HEY, BUB!
SNAP
SAY, BUB, I'M THE BABY NEW YEAR!
I'M THE OLD BABY NEW YEAR YOU'RE HERE TO REPLACE, AND DON'T CALL ME "BUB"!
CREAKK
BUT I WAS EXPECTING A BABY! NOT A WRINKLED BAG OF BONES AND COBWEBS!
CREAK
12-27
WEARING A DIAPER THAT REALLY, REALLY, REALLY NEEDS CHANGING!
THE SAME FATE AWAITS YOU, AND DON'T CALL ME "BUB"!!
POP
HUMAN ANTICS AGE BABY NEW YEARS! THIS YEAR WAS ESPECIALLY, UM, "CHALLENGING"!
WELL, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT MANKIND BEHAVES THIS YEAR, THEY WILL!
CACKLE CACKLE CACKLE CACKLE CACKLE SNORT WHEEZE CACKLE CACKLE
I'M SURE THEY WILL, BUB!
POOF
DON'T CALL ME "BUB"!
BILLINGSLEY
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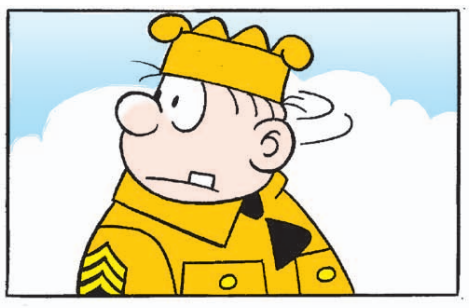
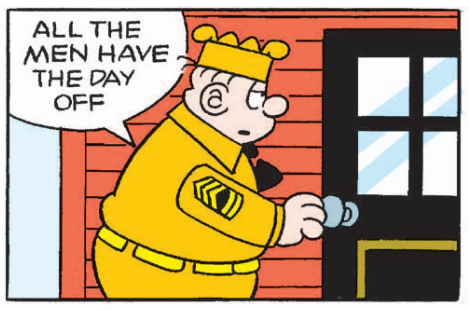
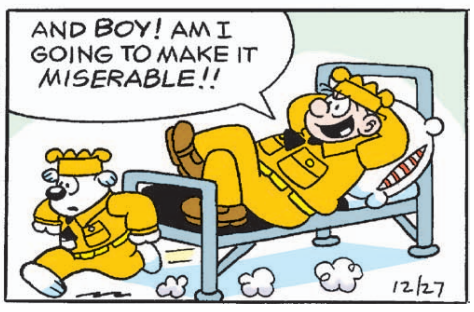
Mort Walker's beetle bailey®

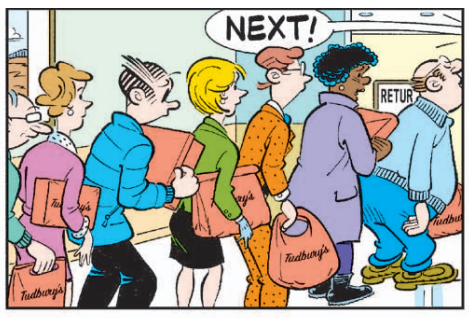


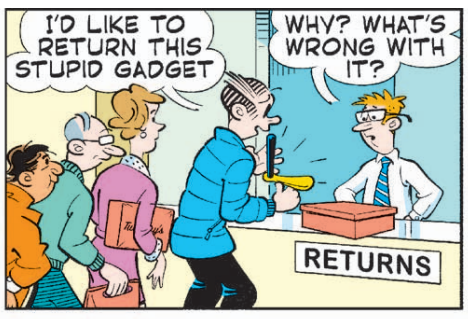




BLONDIE®

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL





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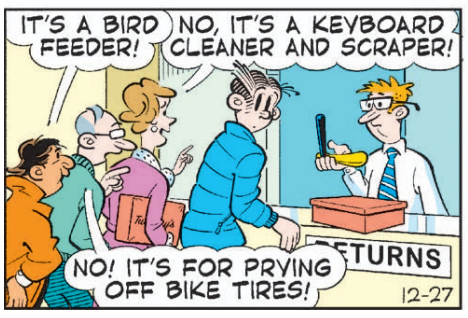

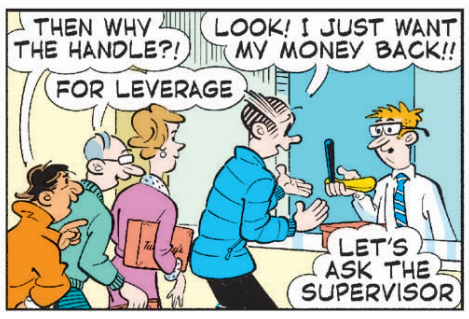

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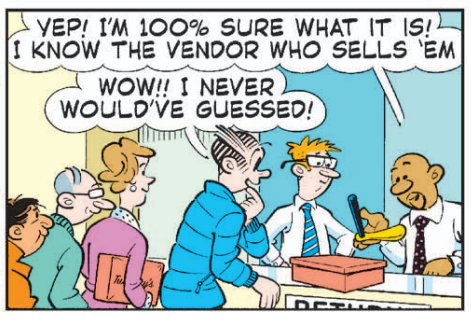
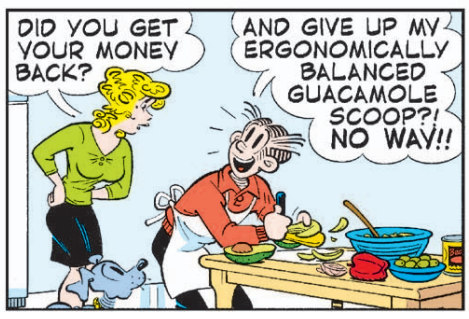
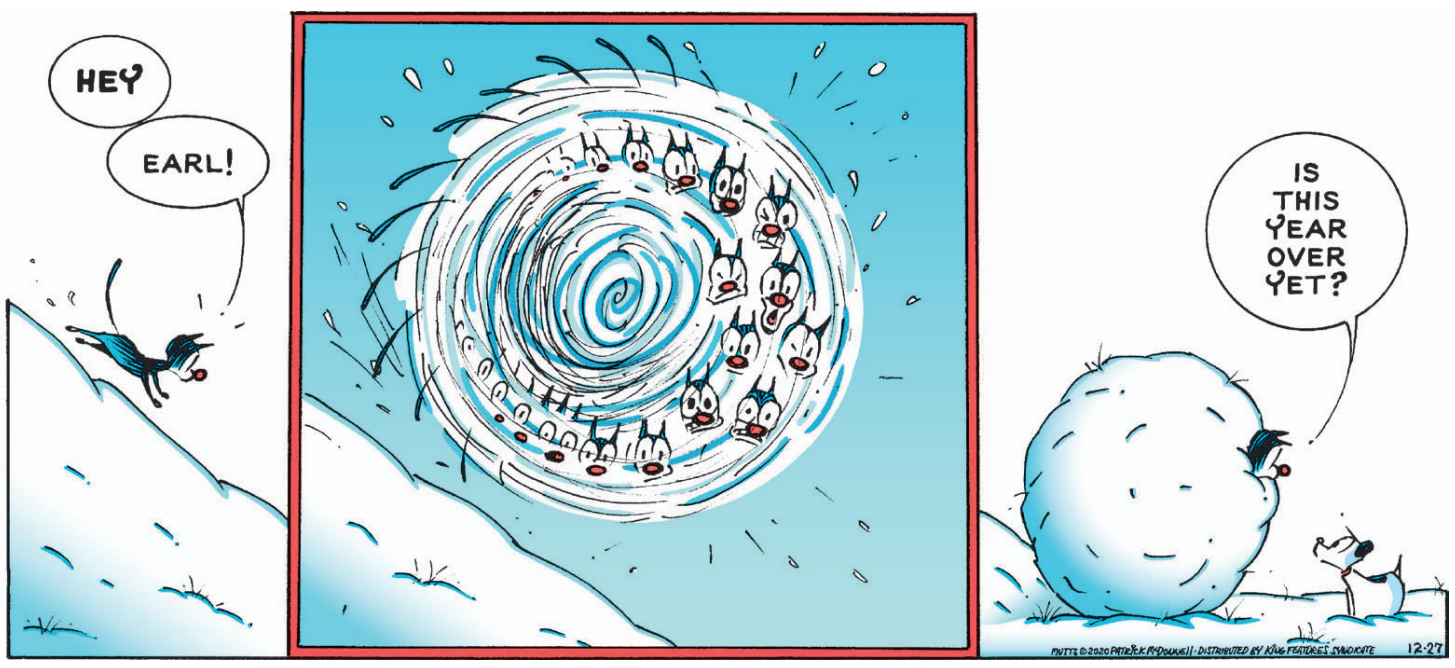




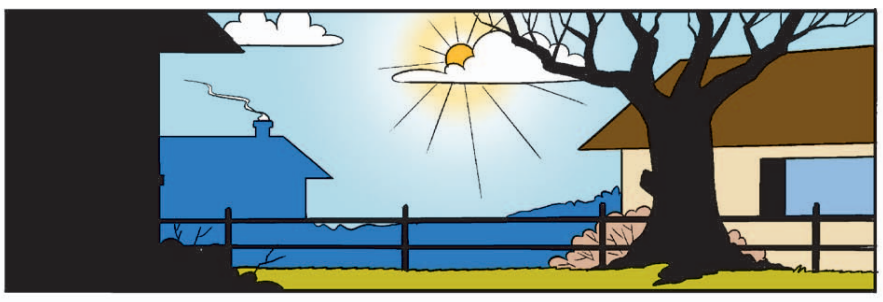
MUTTS

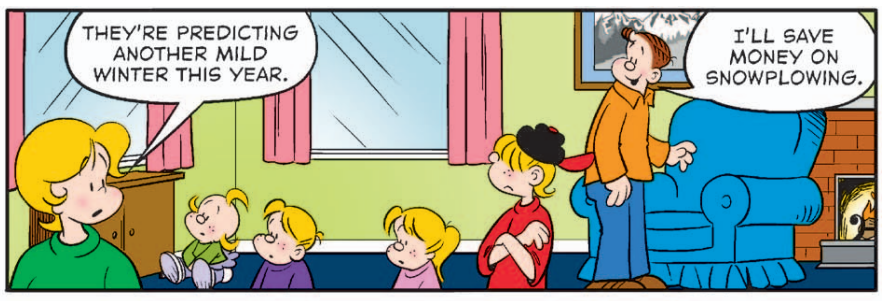
Patrick McDonnell



Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER





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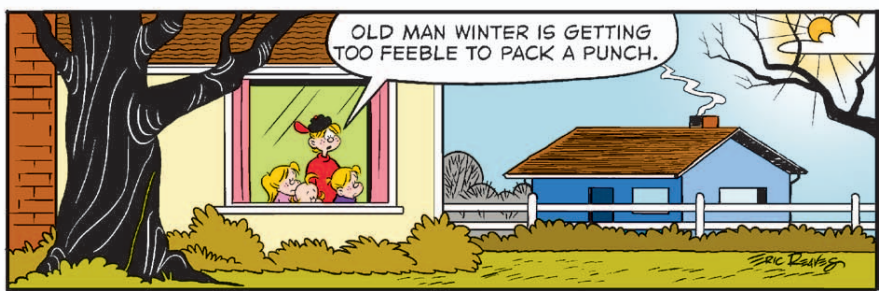

The FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane

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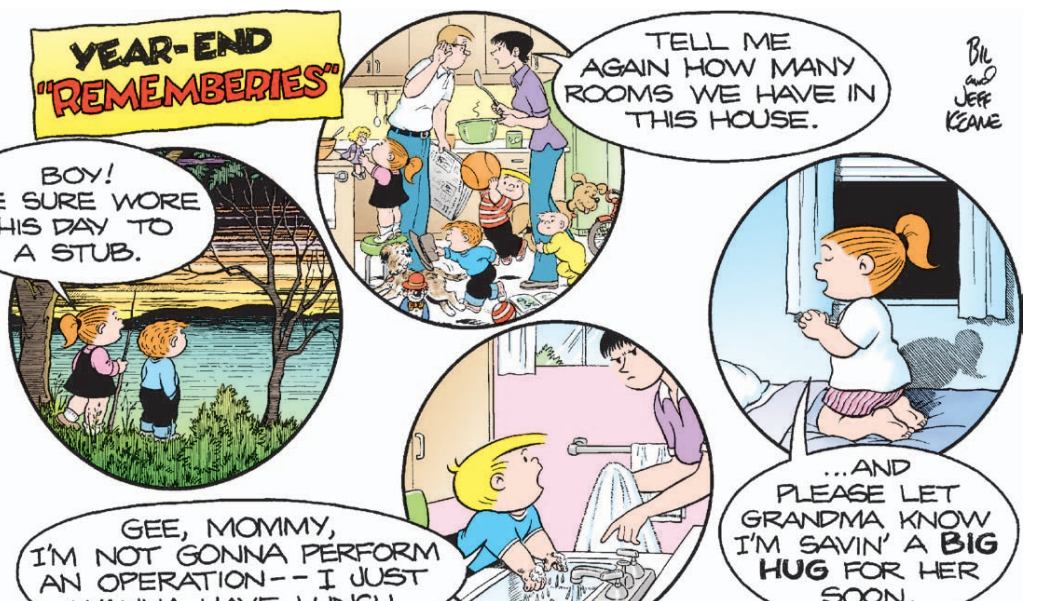
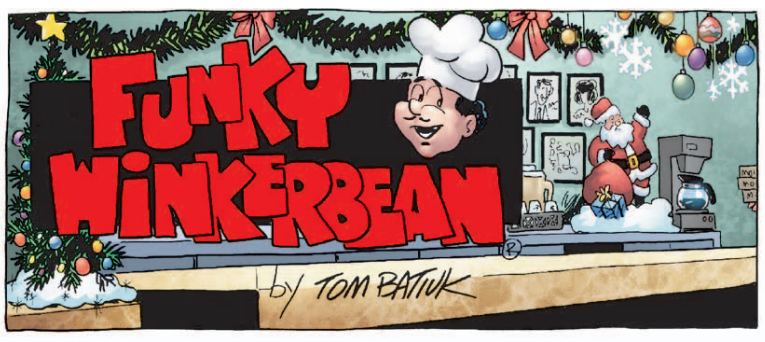
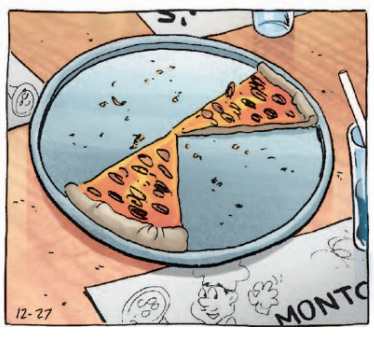

YEAR-END "REMEMBERIES"
BOY! WE SURE WORE THIS DAY TO A STUB.
TELL ME AGAIN HOW MANY ROOMS WE HAVE IN THIS HOUSE.
GEE, MOMMY, I'M NOT GONNA PERFORM AN OPERATION--I JUST WANNA HAVE LUNCH.
...AND PLEASE LET GRANDMA KNOW I'M SAVIN' A BIG HUG FOR HER SOON.
Bil and Jeff Keane

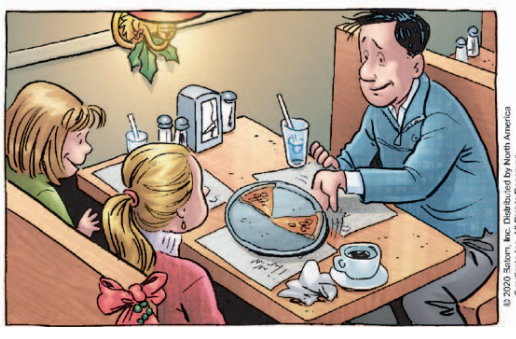
FUNKY WINKERBEAN

by TOM BATIUK





funkywinkerbean.com/books



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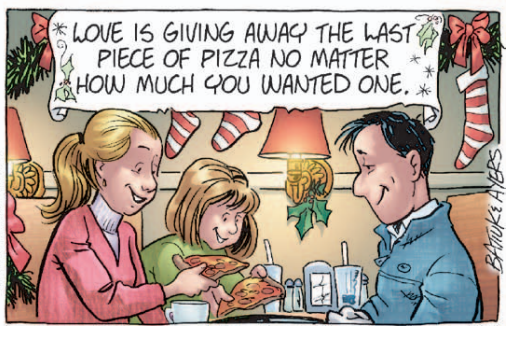
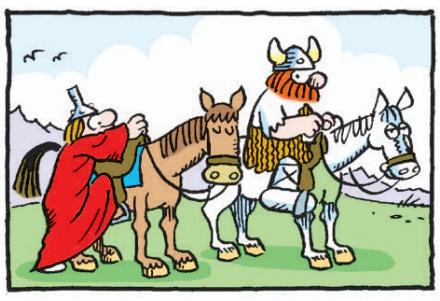


HAGAR the horrible

by DIK BROWNE


LUCKY EDDIE, YOU'RE JUST A NATURAL CLOWN, YOU KNOW THAT?
HAGAR, THANK YOU FOR JOINING MY BANQUET TABLE AND PRESENTING THIS EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT.
12-27
DO I SEE BANDAGES, SIRE?
YES, I HAD A RIDING ACCIDENT AND CRACKED MY RIBS! THE PAIN CAN SEND ME INTO A VIOLENT RAGE!
WE COULD RESCHEDULE THE ENTERTAINMENT...
NONSENSE! IT ONLY HURTS WHEN I LAUGH!
YOU'RE ON, LUCKY EDDIE!
GULP!
BROWNE

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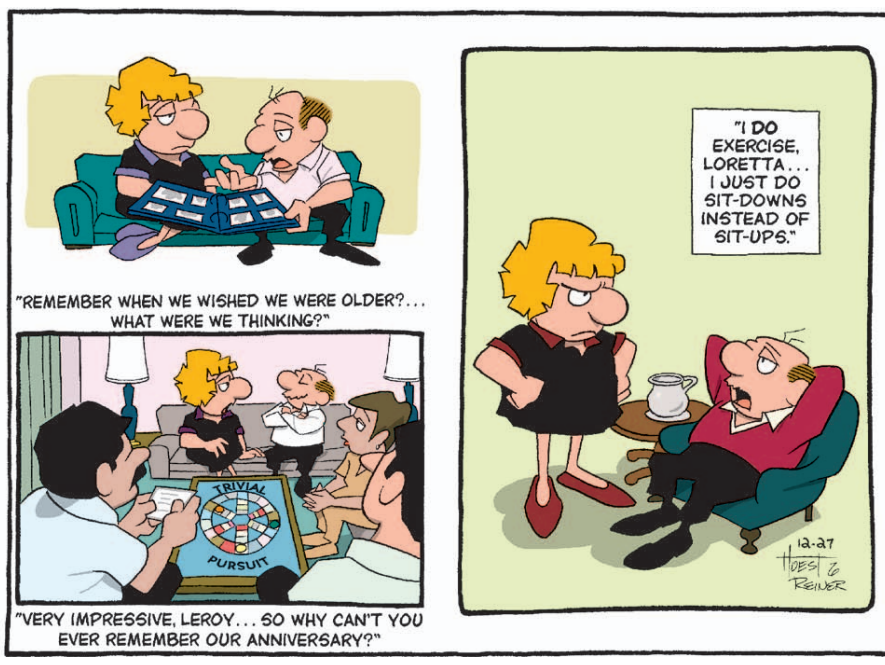
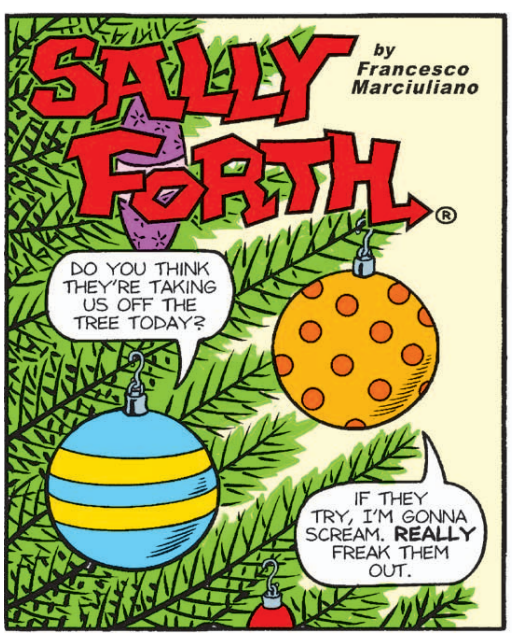
THE LOCKHORNS

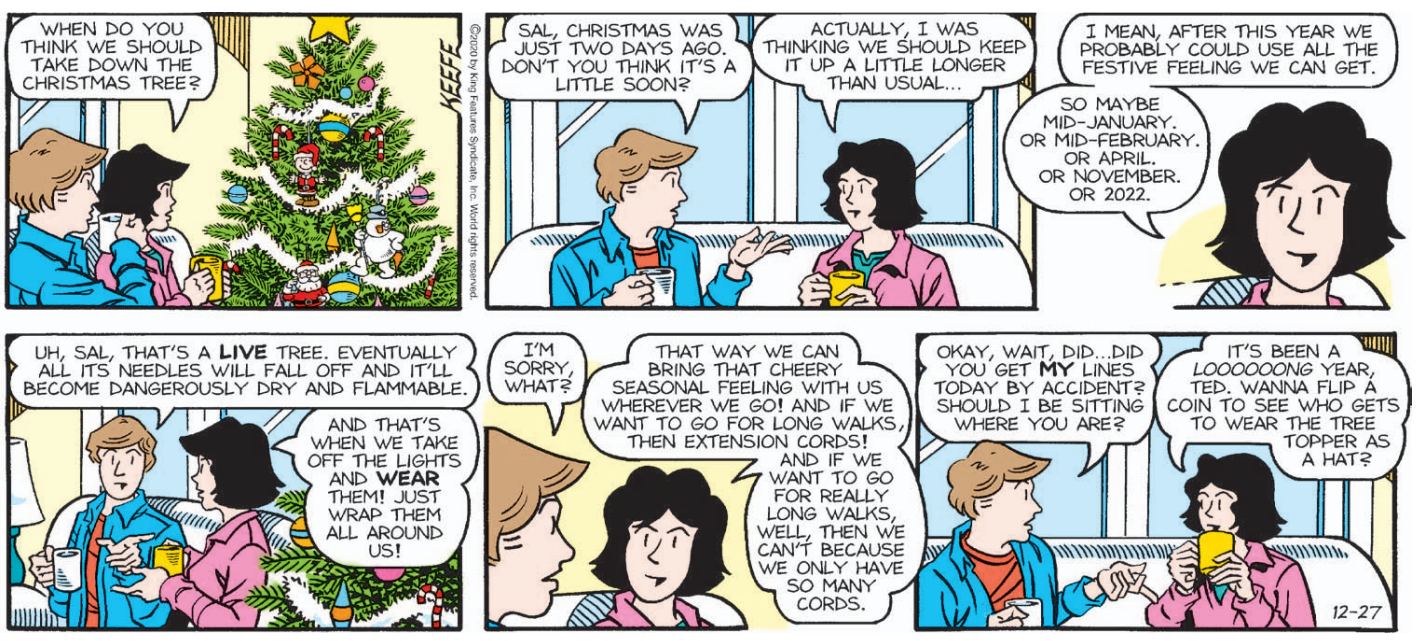
BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER


"REMEMBER WHEN WE WISHED WE WERE OLDER?... WHAT WERE WE THINKING?"
TRIVIAL PURSUIT
"VERY IMPRESSIVE, LEROY... SO WHY CAN'T YOU EVER REMEMBER OUR ANNIVERSARY?"
"I DO EXERCISE, LORETTA... I JUST DO SIT-DOWNS INSTEAD OF SIT-UPS."
12-27
HOEST & REINER
©2020 WM. HOEST ENTERPRISES, INC. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
www.thelockhorns.com
"YOU JUST RELAX, LORETTA... I'LL PILE UP THE DISHES IN THE SINK."
"THIS IS A SAFE SPACE... NOBODY WILL BE TALKING SPORTS."

SALLY FORTH®

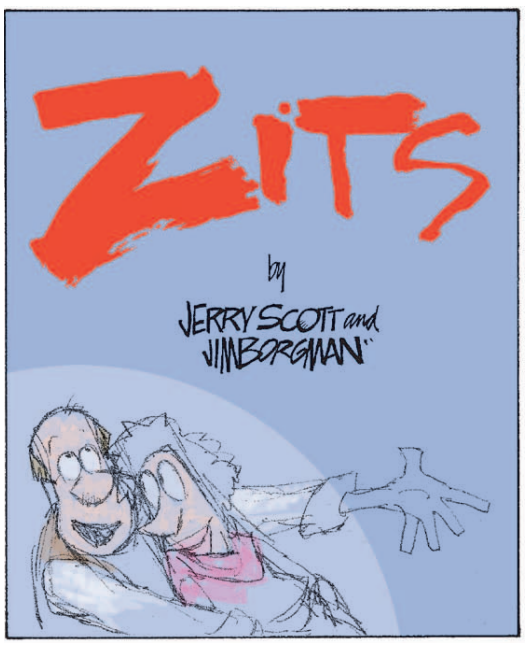
by Francesco Marciuliano

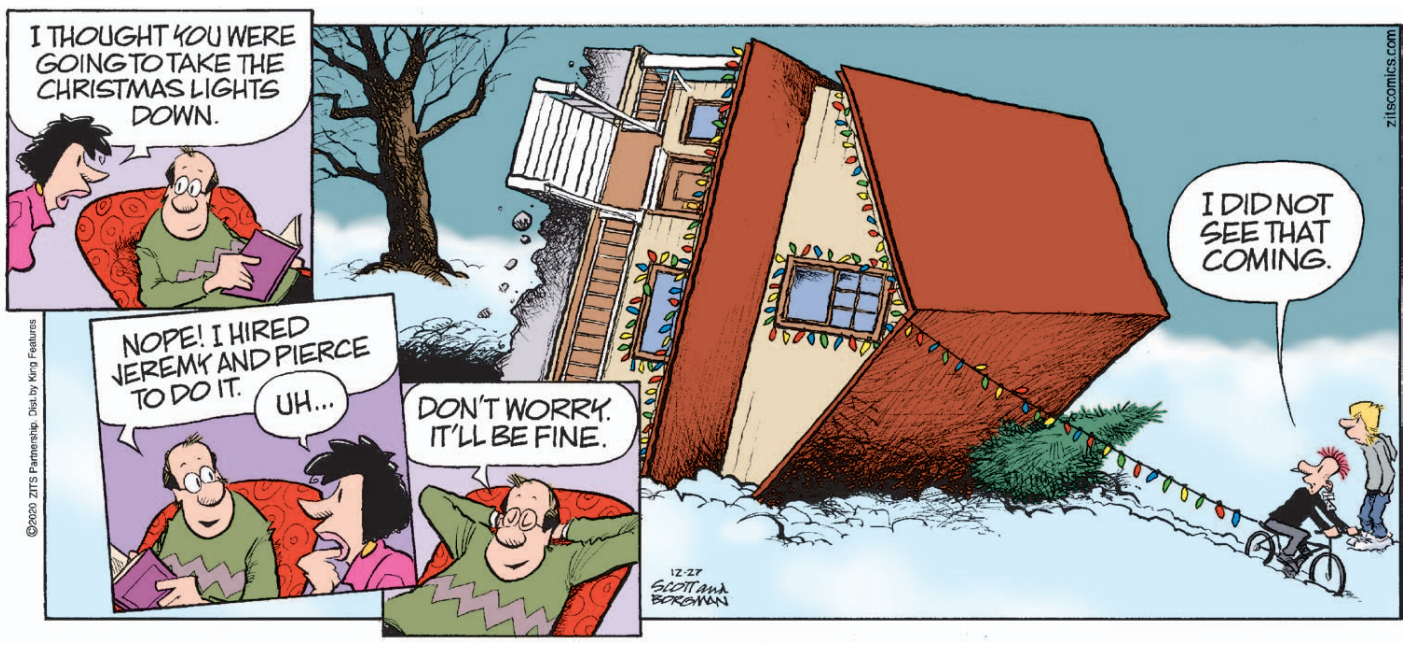



WHEN DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD TAKE DOWN THE CHRISTMAS TREE?
KEEFE
SAL, CHRISTMAS WAS JUST TWO DAYS AGO. DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE SOON?
ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING WE SHOULD KEEP IT UP A LITTLE LONGER THAN USUAL...
I MEAN, AFTER THIS YEAR WE PROBABLY COULD USE ALL THE FESTIVE FEELING WE CAN GET.
SO MAYBE MID-JANUARY. OR MID-FEBRUARY. OR APRIL. OR NOVEMBER. OR 2022.
UH, SAL, THAT'S A LIVE TREE. EVENTUALLY ALL ITS NEEDLES WILL FALL OFF AND IT'LL BECOME DANGEROUSLY DRY AND FLAMMABLE.
AND THAT'S WHEN WE TAKE OFF THE LIGHTS AND WEAR THEM! JUST WRAP THEM ALL AROUND US!
I'M SORRY, WHAT?
THAT WAY WE CAN BRING THAT CHEERY SEASONAL FEELING WITH US WHEREVER WE GO! AND IF WE WANT TO GO FOR LONG WALKS, THEN EXTENSION CORDS! AND IF WE WANT TO GO FOR REALLY LONG WALKS, WELL, THEN WE CAN'T BECAUSE WE ONLY HAVE SO MANY CORDS.
OKAY, WAIT, DID...DID YOU GET MY LINES TODAY BY ACCIDENT? SHOULD I BE SITTING WHERE YOU ARE?
IT'S BEEN A LOOOOOONG YEAR, TED. WANNA FLIP A COIN TO SEE WHO GETS TO WEAR THE TREE TOPPER AS A HAT?
12-27

ZITS

by JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN




I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DOWN.
NOPE! I HIRED JEREMY AND PIERCE TO DO IT.
UH...
DON'T WORRY. IT'LL BE FINE.
I DID NOT SEE THAT COMING.
12-27
SCOTT and BORGMAN
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zitscomics.com

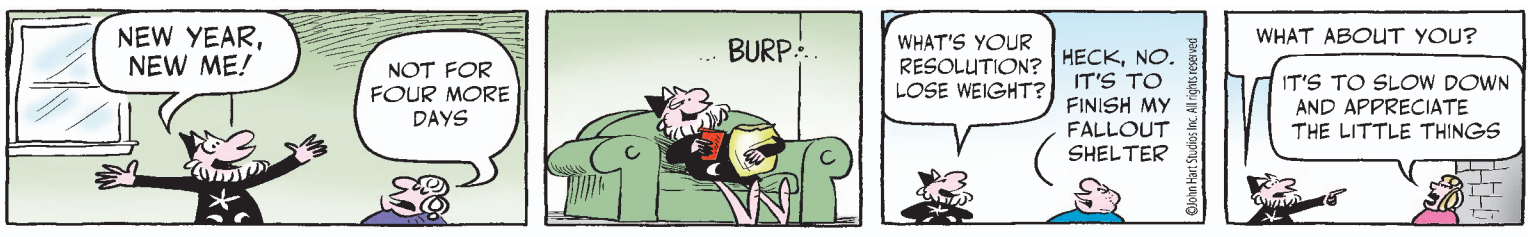
FORT KNOX™

by Paul Jon

HAPPY NEW YEAR, JOEY!!!
MOM, IT'S NOT 2021 YET.
'21
END is NEAR
12/27
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!? I RANG IN THE NEW YEAR LAST NIGHT!
WELL, I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU...
...BUT IT'S STILL 2020. WHAT GAVE YOU THE IDEA THAT IT WAS 2021??
DECEMBER
WRING in 2021
Read new comics daily in The Washington Post and join us at www.Facebook.com/FortKnoxComics
THE GENERAL TOLD ME IT WAS.
THAT'S STRANGE...
ADIÓS 2020
WHY WOULD HE DO SUCH A THING?!?
COUNT DOWN
TO MAXIMIZE MY NEW YEAR'S SMOOCHES.
KISS O' DEATH
© 2020 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group

WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker


NEW YEAR, NEW ME!
NOT FOR FOUR MORE DAYS
... BURP...
WHAT'S YOUR RESOLUTION? LOSE WEIGHT?
HECK, NO. IT'S TO FINISH MY FALLOUT SHELTER
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
IT'S TO SLOW DOWN AND APPRECIATE THE LITTLE THINGS

OH, AND AMASS AT LEAST THREE TONS OF TOILET PAPER
12-27-20
YOU?
I'M GOING TO LEARN HOW TO GROW MY OWN FOOD
Wizardofid.com
I'M GOING TO REACH OUT TO MY CLOSEST FRIENDS MORE AND NOT TAKE THINGS FOR GRANTED
...AND STOCK UP ON MREs
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR THIS YEAR...
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S PUT AN END TO THE TRADITIONAL, CLICHE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS
Dist. by Creators
Facebook.com/WizardOfId

BC

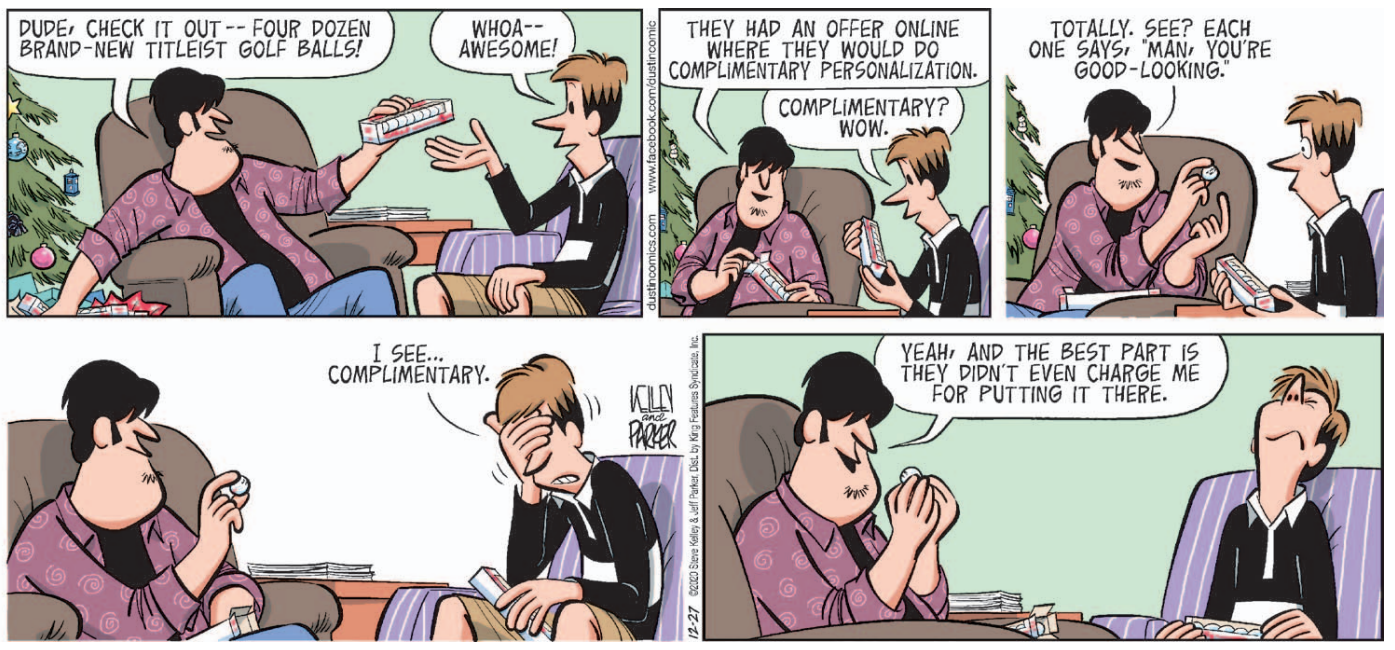
BY MASTROIANNI AND HART

BIZARRO

Dist. by King Features
Since you're new, you should know that if you scratch and circle too many times, you can fall through.
Dan Piraro 5
12-27-20
Facebook.com/BizarroComics
BIZARRO.COM

DUSTIN

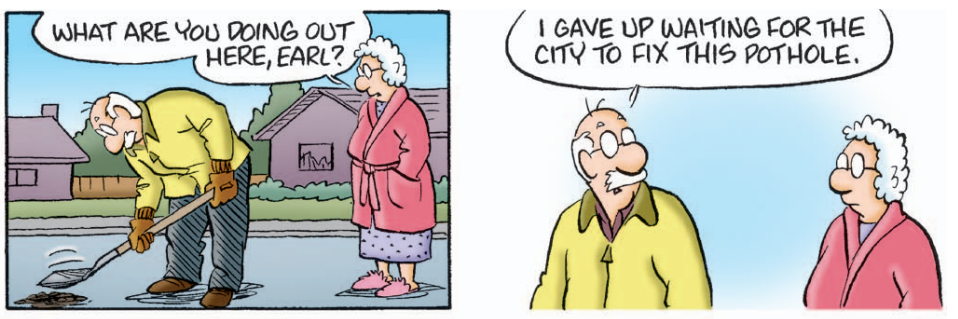
By STEVE KELLEY and JEFF PARKER


DUDE, CHECK IT OUT -- FOUR DOZEN BRAND-NEW TITLEIST GOLF BALLS!
WHOA-- AWESOME!
THEY HAD AN OFFER ONLINE WHERE THEY WOULD DO COMPLIMENTARY PERSONALIZATION.
COMPLIMENTARY? WOW.
TOTALLY. SEE? EACH ONE SAYS, "MAN, YOU'RE GOOD-LOOKING."
I SEE... COMPLIMENTARY.
YEAH, AND THE BEST PART IS THEY DIDN'T EVEN CHARGE ME FOR PUTTING IT THERE.
dustincomics.com
www.facebook.com/dustincomic
KELLY and PARKER
12-27
©2020 Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

PICKLES

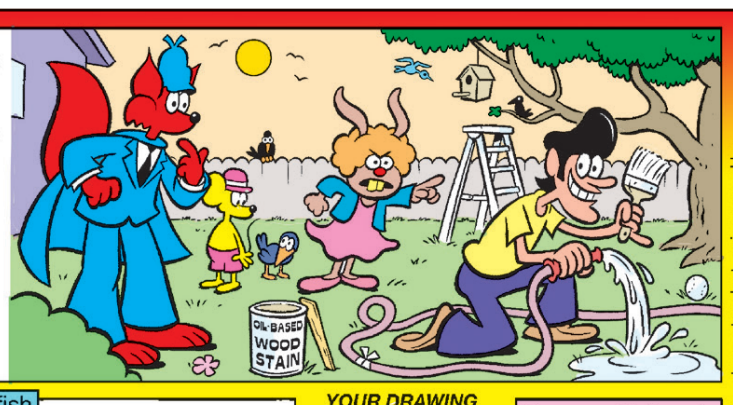
by BRIAN CRANE


WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE, EARL?
I GAVE UP WAITING FOR THE CITY TO FIX THIS POTHOLE.
SO I'M FIXING IT MYSELF.
WHAT DID YOU FILL IT WITH?
OH, I DON'T KNOW, JUST SOMETHING I FOUND LYING AROUND.
IS THIS THE FRUITCAKE MY SISTER GAVE US?
I HAVE TO GO NOW.
picklescomic@blogspot.net
12/27/20 ©2007 Brian Crane, dist. by Washington Post Writers Group

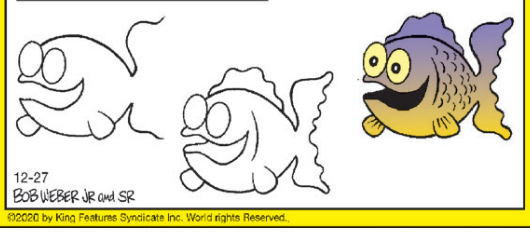
Bob Weber Jr.'s SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

Mrs. Rabbit accused Slick Smitty of stealing a package from her doorstep several minutes ago. Smitty insists he's innocent. He claims he spent the last several minutes hosing off his brush after putting stain on a birdhouse. Why does Slylock Fox think Slick Smitty is lying?

Slylock noticed the stain is oil-based. Water is used to clean water-based stain. Oil-based stain repels water and is most commonly cleaned from a brush with mineral spirits or paint thinner.



HOW TO DRAW a fish



12-27
BOB WEBER JR and SR

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Thomas, age 8

Submit your black-and-white drawing to **www.slylockfox.com**

The scrambled words are rodent species. How many can you unscramble?

1) EMCI
2) SERBAVE
3) MSAERTSH
4) KHSINPUMC

Answer -- 1) Mice 2) Beavers 3) Hamsters 4) Chipmunks

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Bird, tent stake, star, water plant, pajamas and log.

For more Spot Six Differences, Slylock Fox and other puzzles and comics go to **www.slylockfox.com**

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